# THE INDEPENDENT

ON SATURDAY

Saturday 24 January 1998

#### INSIDE YOUR FIVE SECTION PAPER



Hunting hippo, buying wine, meeting Vanessa Mae-plus the surveyor facing **Shearer** 



### US gapes at Bill, the Hollywood super-stud

An entire nation is gripped by allegations that Bill Clinton indulged in a "kind of sex" with Monica Lewinsky, a 21-yearold work experience traince, then told her to lie about it. The White House is in pandemonium. It is a script even Hollywood would have had trouble dreaming up.

Or would it? In a case of life imitating art, the scandal finds uncanny echoes in two major films. Coming soon is Primary Colours, starring John Travolta and Emma Thompson (left), a fictionalised account of Clinton's 1992 campaign complete with adultery. And there is Wag the Dog, about a president caught with a teenager. How much better - or worse - can it possibly get?

Clinton accused, page 13 Movie still: Big Pictures

# Britain's wife-beating epidemic is revealed

In parts of Britain, one woman in nine is a victim of severe beatings by her partner each year, a major study will report next week. As attered women turn to hospitals, police, social

workers and housing officers for help, the cost is burning a £1 bn hole in the public purse.

It was something which always went on behind closed doors. Neighbours might bear the verbal abuse or the sound of blows being struck, but it was best not

An avalanche swept away

walking with snow shoes

an entire school class,

high in the French Alps

esterday, killing seven

were still missing last

night after 19 had been

rescued by emergency

"avalanche" dogs. capable

trapped under the snow.

Some of the rescued peo-

ple were buried for sever-

al hours: all were injured.

ear Orres in the Haute-

Alpes area of France,

south of Grenoble. Au-

The accident happened

learns using trained

of sniffing out bodies

people. Six more people

But no longer. A research team from three British universities, which has been given unprecedented access to emergency and social services files. has found that battered women are seeking help in their hundreds of thousands.

The researchers believe that the total cost to Britain is more than £1bn a year. In the first official study aimed at quantifying the economic hurden of domestic violence, they have reckoned the public cost at £90 per household per year.

The findings will alarm Paul

7 die in French avalanche

FRANCE

heavy snow-falls but the

school party seems to have

departed from the recom-

Police said 32 people had

been engulfed by the slide of

mended safe trails.

avalanche warnings following

Thursday. The report will also land on the desk of Joan Rud-

dock, the minister for women. who is currently working with the Home Office to devise a new government domestic violence strategy, which includes raising public awareness of the issue and making it easier for women to come forward and report attacks without putting themselves at risk.

She said last night: "Domestic violence is a crime and cannot be tolerated. To put a financial cost on such unacceptable behaviour fails to

snow and ice, including 26

teenagers and six teachers

and instructors. There was

the identity or ages of the

The children came

from the Saint-François

d'Assises school at Mon-

tigny-le-Bretonneux, south

of Paris. They were taking

part in a "classe de neige"

the extended period of

thousands of French

skiing instruction given to

schoolchildren at this time

of year. Local police said

the accident happened

avalanche high-risk area.

close to a known

no immediate word on

to get involved. The victims Boateng, the health minister, recognise the emotional and would keep quiet for the sake who has convened a special physical hurt placed on women of the children or through fear seminar on domestic violence and children. We are detersociety."

The study, called Counting the Costs, was commissioned by the Children's Society and Hackney Safer Cities. It took a year and was carried out by social scientists from Brunel University, the University of Kent and Middlesex University. The Independent has oblained an advance copy of the report which will be published by Crime Concern next week.

Members of the research team focused on the east London borough of Hackney, where they were allowed to ex-

amine thousands of files relat-

beth Stanko, of Brunel University, said: "We have to get away from the idea that domestic violence is something hidden; public services are dealing with it day-in and day-out. It is only hidden in the sense that virtually no public agency could account for how much they spent on domestic violence. We had to do that file by file."

Among the study's most worrving findings was that 5,000 children in Hackney alone were directly affected by domestic violence during the year. It con-

ing to the victims of domestic facing violence and abuse ... are said they had suffered in silence.

Researchers found that domestic violence can take many forms. Some women were beaten until they miscarried or lost consciousness. One man tormented his wife by forcing her to communicate only in written notes, which he would often burn in front of her.

One woman told researchers that she would not tolerate any more violence. "No one will ever do that to me again and walk away," she said. "I have constant panic attacks and most men who know me cluded: "The absent services for are wary of me as I tend to be

children whose mothers are aggressive." But older women an obvious gap in public service One septuagenarian said hitterry: "It's all too late now. In old age, sexual violence hecomes mental cruelty. Weak shits remain weak shits."

As part of their research, the

GPs' surgeries. They found that in the past year, 25 per cent had been victims of non physical abuse, 20 per cent had been given punches or slaps. and 11 per cent had suffered more serious physical abuse.

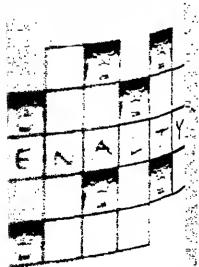
team interviewed 129 women in

E. THER Time Off, page 2 TELEVISION The Eye CROSSIVORE'S Page 24 and Tim Off, page 12

Web address: http://www. independent.co.uk



Ia. Could be A mcurred if we TODAY'S NEWS don't receive pur completed tax return y 31st January



The second secon The second second A BOM ATTENDED TO SEE SEE SEE SEE

#### PMT discovery

Phe-menstrual tension, once dismissed by doctors as "all in the mind", may be connected to heightened sensitivity to the female hormone, Destrogen, according to American researchers. Page 5

#### **Ulster confusion**

n mixed signals from Northern Ireland yesterday, a statement by the Ulster Defence Assocation announcing the end of a wave of killings by its loyalist gunmen was followed a few hours later by another shooting. Page 4

#### Japanese apologise to Sun: Now Inland Revenue apologises to The Independent

The Inland Revenue yesterday issued the first apology over its new system of tax self-assessment, admitting to The Independent that it was still sending out tax hills with just a week to go before deadline.

It said that anyone who received a tax bill after the 31 January deadline and was therefore issued with a fine - amounting to 5 per cent of their bill - could appeal.

### Ashdown's crusade will Lib-Dems follow?

Liberal Democrat MPs have been ushered into a secret meeting to read Paddy Ashdown's radical strategy to take them into a new, closer relationship with Labour. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, describes a bold political gamble to reshape British politics.



The Liberal Democrats are to be offered a "double lock" to protect them from being led into a full-blown coalition with the Labour government in a strategy paper which Paddy Ashdown is to put to the party's rank

But he has decided to lead his party forward to a closer alliance with Tony Blair - in spite of widespread unrest about the Government's threats to the welfare state - in order to secure the modernisation of the British constitution, and a fairer voting system for the Commons.

To altay the fears of his own party, he promised that any change in the strategy of "constructive opposition" could only be made with the agreement of and party activists. But he is de- Labour had a landslide victory.



termined to press on with closer relations with Labour, possibly leading to coalition after the next general election.

"The key is PR (proportional representation]. That is likely to lead to shared govemment in Scotland, It would he very odd, if we said it was acceptable in Scotland but not in England," said one of the MPs who approved the document. Mr. Ashdown's careful diplo-

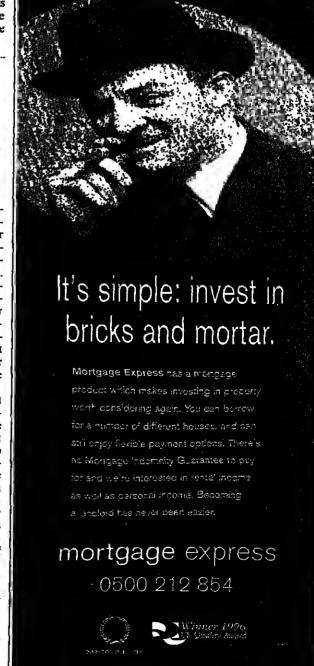
macy won over doubters who have been attacking Labour for failing to spend more money on public services. Coalition was not mentioned in the document, but Mr Ashdown has told close friends that a seat in the Blair cabinet was on offer both the Liberal Democrat MPs before the election. When

both he and the Prime Minisier agreed this was not appropriate and he suggested to Mr Blair that the Liberal Democrats should join a cabinet committee on constitutional reform.

In spite of their weekly clashes over Prime Minister's questions in the Commons, Mr Ashdown and Mr Blair have privately agreed that a historic objective must be to ensure that the modernising project for British politics is safely in place before they step down.

The Liberal Democrat leader was contemplating confronting his party critics at the spring conference in Southport hut has been strongly advised to adopt a more consensual approach. The sensitivity in the party over the possibility of a coalition with Labour is widespread and so great that Mr Ashdown's strategy paper was shown to the 46 Liberal Democrat MPs in conditions of

considerable secrecy. The MPs were shown the documents at a day-long strategy conference with the party leader at the Ismaili Centre in Kensington, west London. They were allowed to read numbered copies , which they had to hand back at the end of the meeting. His strategy will be put up for approval in a draft resolution which The Independent has obtained.



### COLUMN ONE

### Clerics to get the MBA lowdown on mammon

It may be easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter Heaven; hut it may also be easier for a priest to balance the books and manage his parish when he has a business degree course under his belt.

Members of the Church of England's General Synod are being invited to sign up for a new MBA course on how to run churches using husiness principles. The image of priests priming themselves on the finer points of corporate strategy may seem a touch too worldly, but it is all in the name of providing a better service for customers.

The two-year masters degree at Bishop Grosseteste University College, in Lincoln, is available to both clergy and senior lay members of the Church of England. It aims to convert students into "effective and imaginative managers and leaders, faithful to their religious calling.

Such courses are mainstream in the United States, where many churches already see their role as providing a "quality service" to worshippers. Canon Raymond Rodgers, the Bishop of Lincoln's personal assistant, suggested the course after attending an MBA programme run by the Graduate Theological Foundation of Indiana.

Roman Catholic and Southern Baptist churches in the US offered a service which was "directly comparable" to ideas of quality service among businesses, he said.

However, some church members remain unconvinced of the value of such a course. "The resistance comes from people whose thinking concept seems to be that members of the Church are guided by the Spirit, which will hlow them where it will," said Canon Rodgers. "The Spirit is chaotic and therefore they are resistant to any kind of management structures. They look for inspiration, spontaneity and creativity - and they think



Balancing act: The Church of England wants better management

management is the enemy of that.

"To win them round I have to suggest that you couldn't organise the high-street stores in this way, or any kind of secular organisation, for that matter. We believe that we are here to win people's souls so we, of all people, should be offering the best of what the world has to offer ... We need to think of the worshipper in the pew as the person we serve. We need to look at their needs and think how we can exceed them."

Like more mainstream business and management courses, Britain's first MBA in church management offers modules on corporate strategy, financial planning and control, change management and developing people in organisations. Students will also he able to choose from six theological modules, including theology for management, spirituality in organisations and appraisal in Christian contexts.

Eileen Baker, principal of Bishop Grosseteste College, where the course is being run in collaboration with Hull University, said there was a need seriously to study management in relation to the Church.

"Theology deals with belief systems and behaviour that derive from man's relationship with God and direct our relations with each other," she said. "Successful management depends on getting systems and rela-

tionships right, so the two areas of study have a great deal in common." Dr Mark Chater, who will be leading the course, which starts in September, added: "It is not about church people taking on management language and values uncritically. It is about a useful harnessing of management

skills and insights to our theological and missionary task. — Clore Gorner

TOURIST RATES	_		
Australia (dollars)	2.41	Italy (lira)	2,833
Austria (schillings)	20, 13	Japan (yen)	205.73
Belgium (francs)	59.18	Malta (lira)	0.62
Canada (\$)	2.33	Netherlands (guilders)	3.22
Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	12.00
Denmark (kroner)	10.99	Portugal (escudos)	291.76
France (francs)	9.60	Spain (pesetas)	242.45
Germany (marks)	2.87	Sweden (kroner)	12.78
Greece (drachmei)	458.27	Switzerland (francs)	2.34
Hong Kong (\$)	12.35	Turkey (lira)	342,116
Ireland (punts)	1.13	USA (\$)	1.60
	1.13	Source: Thomas Cook, Roten for indicat	ion purposes only

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ZITS

#### **PEOPLE**



Jimmy Wray, who sacked his wife as his secretary, pictured with his girlfriend Laura Stewart

#### MP must pay £6,000 to estranged wife

Labour MP Jimmy Wray was yesterday ordered to pay more than £6,000 for wrongly sacking his es
"At that time the need for secretaria." tranged wife as his constituency secretary.

An industrial trihunal ordered him to pay £6.080 to Catherine Wray, who the Glasgow Ballieston MP had accused at a hearing earlier this month of waging a "vendetta" against him.

The three-man tribunal ruled that be bad unfairly dismissed ber as his secretary last May.

In its written findings, the tribunal said the essence of Mr Wray's case was that her employment had ended with the dissolution of Parliament. But the tribunal determined: "The tribunal was

unable to accept that the applicant's employment was brought to an end by performance of a specified task or project.

The work which she was employed to do was secretarial duties. There was no evidence that the applicant's employment was other than continuous from June 1987 until her employment was terminated al- while she remained in their house in Glasgow.

"At that time the need for secretarial services still

Mrs Wray had no immediate comment on ber victory, a spokesman for ber said yesterday. The ruling followed a tribunal hearing earlier this

month in Glasgow at which Mr Wray, 63, a former boxer, made an emotional and hitter attack on his estranged wife. After the hearing, be revealed his that girlfriend. Laura Walker, was pregnant and they hoped to marry soon.

His marriage to Catherine took place in 1985. The trihunal's written findings stated she worked parttime as his secretary from June 1987 from the matrimonial bome. Her duties included contact with constituents, taking phone calls, and forwarding mail.

But by 1994 the pair were living in separate rooms in the matrimonial home, said the tribunal. They separated in the following year and Mr Wray moved out

#### Lady Spencer sues lawyers over public divorce —

Countess Spencer is claiming around £2m in damages from her former firm of solicitors who advised ber hefore sbe became involved in what she describes as one of the most public d hearings ever recorded".

The 32-year-old former model, who was married to Earl Spencer, 33, hrother of the Princess of Wales, and bore him four children, has issued the writ in the High Court in London against The Family Law Consor-

They are the London solicitors which advised ber before the hearing in Cape Town, South Africa. £1.815,000 settlement after her hushand sued for divorce.

Lady Spencer, who admits she has suffered from eating disorders and addiction, said she bad hired the solicitors to "contain the distress" of the divorce proceedings



Lady Spencer: Divorce claim

last month when she won a which she wanted to be over "as quickly and privately as possible". But she claims that hecause of their negligence, "one of the most public divorce hearings ever recorded took place, with the

world's press in general and the

British press in particular cover-

problems and "the damage that public and stressful divorce procecdings would have been likely to have" on ber bealth, the writ al-

nied access.

Lady Spencer is claiming that she missed out on a much higher divorce settlement by reaching the agreement in South Africa rather than London.

ing every detail of the proceed-

bad taken place in England, they

would bave been beld in private

ina toe press would have ocen de

een minimal." the writ says.

"Publicity, if any, would have

David Hodson, senior partner

in the firm, was aware of ber bealth

She says that if the proceedings

She claims that the High Court would have awarded her a lumo sum in the region of £3.35m. A South African court gave ber a capital sum of £2,065,000.

#### Woody Allen falls foul of courts again

Woody Allen's repeated run-ins well as two older children, Moses with the courts, mostly in his bitdropped from jury duty in New

"The courts do not serve justice," Allen told Judge Paul Bookson, called for duty in a civil case this week, turning up in court in jacket and baseball cap.

Allen, 62, lost his child-custody battle with Farrow in 1993, in which his permanently tangled love life was put on very public dis-

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

and Dylan, they had adopted ter custody battles with ex-love Mia jointly. Allen's extended experi-Farrow, were enough to get him ence of the US court systems has been thoroughly unhappy. In 1992, Farrow's atlegations

that he had sexually abused Dylan began a legal ordeal for the comedian and director drawn out over the next several years. Though his lawyers took it all

the way to the New York Supreme Court, his lawyers struggled to win even limited access to his children. In the original case. Allen was cross-examined on his affair with Despite a series of appeals, Far- the eldest of Farrow's adopted chilrow won and kept custody of the dren, Soon-Yi Previn, and forced couple's hiological son Satebel, as to describe bow he took nude pho-

Soon-Yi is now his wife, hut judges who found in Farrow's favour cited the ongoing sexual relationship with the children's older sister as one of their reasons.

The latest of 18 Allen films. Deconstructing Harry, opened this December to solid reviews. His fictional foray into into courtroom drama came in 1989, however, with Crimes and Misdemeanours, an exploration into issues of justice and faith.

He also helped finance Hotel Terminus, a documentary on Klaus Barbie and his prosecution for Nazi war crimes.

- Tim Comwell, Los Angeles

#### Surgeons fight to save Branson balloonist's leg

Surgeons will today try to repair the shattered leg of halloonist Alex Ritchie who was severely injured after a 13,000ft sky dive went wrong.

Mr Ritchie. 52, a close friend of Richard Branson, bas already undergone two major operations to fix a series of hroken hones and repair damage to his abdomen and pelvis.

He saved the Virgin entrepreneur's life during another balloon trip last year, is being treated in London's Middlesex Hospital after he was flown bome by air ambulance from the accident scene in Morocco.

He had been preparing for Mr Branson's latest hid to become the first to fly around the world by

A hospital spokesman said: "So far the surgery bas gone well and Mr Ritchie remains stable.

#### UPDATE MEDICINE

### Complaints against GPs rise

Complaints against family doctors increased last year to an average of one per GP, latest figures show, Complaints against hospitals fell to 92,974 while those against GPs and dentists rose to 36,990. The number of written complaints in 1996-97 was about the same as the previous year at almost 130,000.

Publishing the figures, the first under the new NHS complaints procedure introduced in April 1996, Baroness Jay, the health minister, said complaints were the clearest form of patient dissatisfaction and could improve quality in the NHS.

"The NHS treats many thousands of people every day and the vast majority of them receive excellent treatment. Sometimes things will go wrong. When they do it is very important that they are put right quickly and that lessons are learned. Learning from complaints and using them to improve services will help the NHS to achieve the high standard of care its staff

The figures show two thirds of complaints to hospitals were resolved locally within the target time of four weeks. Of the 130,000 complainants, 2,600 remained dissatisfied with efforts to resolve the matter locally and demanded an independent review. This is conducted by an official and an independent lay person who may, if they think there is a case to answer, refer the complaint to an independent review panel.

Baroness Jay said: "Complaints must be handled sensitively, effectively and without delay. That is a basic right of patients. Responding to, even encouraging complaints, and dealing with them locally wherever possible, is a direct way of pushing up the quality of service that the NHS delivers."

#### Catholic priesthood in decline



The Dublin archdiocese of Ireland's Catholic church lost 19 priests last year, hut ordained just two, according to a new survey.

The figures contained in the report, confirming a serious decline in recruitment to the Irish priesthood, also indicated that, throughout the country, the church was losing clergy at twice the rate at which they could be

The newspaper survey showed that religious vocations peaked in Ireland between 40 and 50 years ago and that priests ordained during that period are now retiring.

But it warned that an over-gloomy assessment of the present position could be misleading as the number of vocations, exceptionally high in the 1940s and 1950s, was now back a more normal level, at a time when pop-

ulation growth rate was stabilising.

But the figures highlighted the loss of 200 priests in Ireland's 26 diocese during the past two years, and the ordination of 97.

In a hid to attract men to the priesthood, the Duhlin archdiocese last in Black?".

Despite the loss of 35 Dublin clergy over a two-year period, there have been only eight ordinations, with the gap widening throughout 1997.

TRANSPORT

#### Road safety drive for children

The Government is set to launch a new child safety campaign to help youngsters cope with traffic on their way to and from school.

The "Hedgehog" campaign, which aims to promote the message "Stop, Look, Listen, Live", will kick off later this month.

In a Commons written reply, Glenda Jackson, the junior transport minister, said: "We are looking at the number, type and effectiveness of measures set up in England and Wales to try to improve the safety of children going to and from school.

"We will issue guidance to local authorities on this next year. "As part of the work on the road safety strategy we will consider what

further measures could be introduced to improve the safety of children

MONEY

#### Brussels role coins it for Britain

A new 50p coin goes into general circulation this month to commemorate the UK's presidency of the European Union. The coin is the first to use a new portrait of the Queen which will be

used on all coins produced from this month. On the other side is a "celebratory arrangement" of the 12 stars of Eu-

rope, depicted as though they are part of a giant firework display. The 50p piece, the same size as the smaller coin introduced last September, also marks the 25th anniversary of the UK's entry into what was then the European Economic Community. It will carry the dates 1973 and

The stars design is the work of John Mills, president of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, who has designed previous celebratory coins such as those for the 1996 European Football Championships held in England and the 50th anniversaries of D-Day and the end of the Second World

The design was chosen from more than 160 submitted by more than 40 artists.

The new royal portrait, created by lan Rank-Broadley, is the fourth portrait of the Queen to appear on circulating coins in her 45-year reign. The Royal Mint will produce five million of the commemorative 50p

coins. It was also confirmed yesterday that on 28 February the older, heavier version of the 50p will cease to be legal tender.

HEALTH

#### Dental risk from seatbelts

Some children may be at risk of damaging or losing their teeth when wearing. seatbelts, a report suggests.

Richard Welhury, from Newcastle Dental Hospital and School, yesterday warned that while seathelt laws had led to a reduction in serious injuries in children, among youngsters who are too large for safety or "booster" seats and too small for adult seat belts, the risk of injury is increased.

His claims follow a case in which a seven-year-old boy, travelling in this situation, lost a tooth following an emergency stop in his father's car.

The boy was sitting in the front seat when the seatbelt became entangled in his mouth. It is believed that the seatbelt became lodged between two of the hoy's lower teeth, one permanent, the other a milk tooth, and the milk tooth became displaced.

It is thought that this is the first documented case of a seatbelt causing just a dental injury.

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rd feature-ength amoons have long produced by just on wa companies in Hollywood, -- You Hedia Correspondine

# Biographers fight for the definitive Mandelson

Peter Mandelson, the man keeping his cards close to his chest over the Millennium Dome, is to be the subject of competing biographies. Barrie Clement, Labour Editor, says the Government's éminence grise faces an uncomfortable time in the spotlight.

Paul Routledge, who caused a flurry in the Downing Street dovecotes with his biography of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is planning a similarly "revelatory" book about the minister without portfolio.

Mr Routledge, political correspondent of The Independent on Sunday, says be already has a working title: Mandy - the unauthorised biography. He believes it will be "in publishable form" by the end of the year, ironically at the same time as a biography written by colleague Donald Macintyre, chief political commentator on this newspaper.

Mr Routledge, 54, has been identified with "old Labour" and will enjoy no access to the great man. Mr Macintyre, 50, takes up a less archaeological political position and has been given reason to hope for least one audience with Mr Mandelson.

The minister without portfolio, who guards his privacy with the same zeal that he defends Tony Blair, is said to be unhapby about the attentions of both writers, but will be particularly incensed by the man from the Sunday paper. Mr Mandelson will be sensitive about his alleged role in encouraging and supporting Mr Blair as a candidate for the Labour Party leadership after the death of John Smith. In his biography of Gordon Brown, published last week, Mr Routledge makes it clear that the Chancellor felt betrayed when Mr Blair broke an alleged agree-



Mandelson (centre) is a reluctant subject for Macintyre (left) and Routledge

job before consulting the other.

Doubtless the literary contest will be characterised as a "battle of the books", but the two men have been close friends and colleagues for many years. At one stage Mr

ment that neither of them would run for the Routledge was labour editor of the Times and Mr Macintyre was his deputy and became his successor. Both refused to cross printworkers' picket lines at Rupert Mur-

"My book will not be published in op-

doch's Wapping plant, and were dismissed.

position to Don's," said Mr Routledge, "but it will be in competition. I hope it will be as revelatory as my book on Gordon." The Independent's man preferred to keep his own counsel when asked about his rival.

Mr Routledge was last touched by the fickle finger of fame when he was presented to the Queen in hicentenary celebrations at the Times. Her Majesty ventured that the miners' strike was the sole responsibility of one man. In an apparent breach of protocol, Mr Routledge told a reporter that the Queen believed that Arthur Scargill was the main cause of the conflict - a story which led news bulletins all over the world.

It is possible that a third Mandelson biography will be published, penned by Francis Beckett, a freelance writer and journalist, who acknowledges the epithet "old Labour" and who is also unlikely to receive any co-operation from the subject.

Editor's letter, page 18

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Hi-tech special effects and feature-length cartoons have long been produced by just one or two companies in Hollywood, Paul McCann, Media Correspondent finds some new players looking to create magic.

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The British film industry to director George Lucas' with the higgest special effects studie in Europe while in Hollywood Stephen Spielberg is launching an animation studio to challenge Disney's domi-

> PolyGram, the Dutch entertainment company which made Trainspotting, is planning to create a special effects company based in Britain that can handle the demands of the growing number of Hollywood movies being made here. It will compete for business with Lucas' famous special effects company Industrial Light & Magic and is likely to be based at one of the big studios at Pinewood, Shepperton or the newly opened studios at Leavesden in Hertfordshire.

The company is being formed first to create effects for Thunderbirds, PolyGram's forthcoming live-action film based on the children's animated TV series. Thunderbirds has a planned budget of £40m and is forecast to be one of the most expensive UK films ever made. This means it will need better effects than the visiblewires of Gerry Anderson's 'Supermarionation that was used for the Sixties series. Previously there has been no effects com-



rowers have used some British expertise.

Over half of all Hollywood films now made contain computer-generated animation or digital effects such as morphing and PolyGram wants its new unit to be able to bandle demand from the increasing number of UK and US productions who use British facilities and pany in the UK capable of craftsmen to make films. As supplying the scale of effects well as the extra capacity at the needed for the film - although new Leavesden studio, Shep-PolyGram films such as The Borperton and Pinewood have ex-

panded to meeting demand for British studio facilities

Industrial Light & Magic itself grew out of the special effects team brought together by George Lucas to create the effects for Star Wars in 1975.

Its greatest innovation has been computer generated animation, a technique that allowed images to be conjured out of nothing or real images to be manipulated at will, most famously when Arnold Schwarzenegger was turned

was hived off into a separate company, Pixar, which made the Disney film Toy Story. Now more traditional ani-

into a liquid-metal robot in

Terminator 2. Industrial Light &

Magic's computer generation

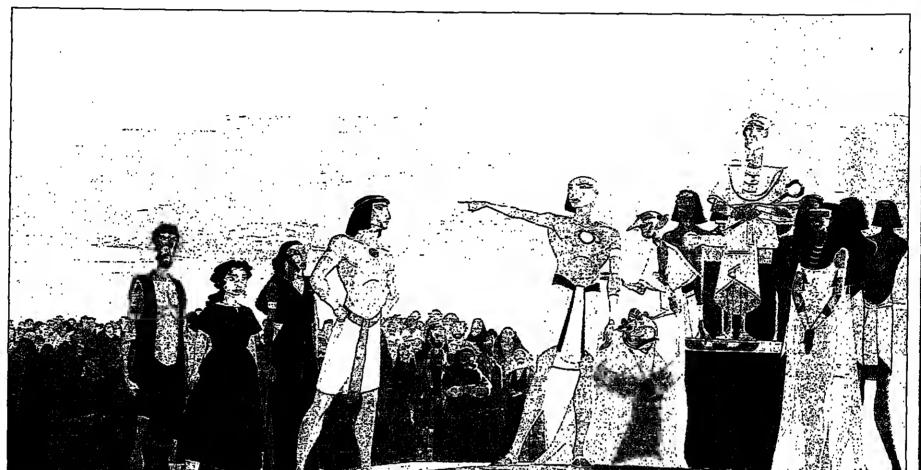
mation is being planned by Disney's former chairman Jeffrey Katzenberg and Stephen Spielberg, his partner in Hollywood's newest studio, Dreamworks SKG.

Dreamworks is investing millions in its own animation studio and its first project will be a feature-length version of the life of Moses.

The £38m film, The Prince of Egypt, is being made by many former Disney animators brought over to Dreamworks by Katzenberg. The film, which will be targeted at adults and older children, will feature the voices of actors such as Ralph Fignnes as the Pharaoh Ramses and Helen Mirren as the Pharaoh Queen.

It is planned to be the first of a series of feature-length cartoons from Dreamworks which had a disappointing start with its first film. Mouse Hunt, which took just \$45m in the US.

A Dreamworks spokesman said its animated films would be more serious than those from Disney: "There will be no anthropomorphic singing urns or any of that rubbish." he said. "There will also be no tie-ins with burger restaurants."



The Prince Of Egypt, Steven Spielberg's foray into animation, and (below) a scene from Terminator 2 which drew on British expertise



To Sir with love: Deborah Ross meets Sir Geoff Hampton, the head in a class of his own

THEMONDAY INTERVIEW

lan Brown: Liam Gallagher? He's no star THE EYE

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#### Hero of post-war art dies, aged 89 Victor Pasmore, one of the and beautifully balanced circles

beroes of British post-war art, has died in Malla, aged 89. · His prints and paintings are familiar to any lover of ab-

stract art. But be began in the tradition of painters like Bonnard and Sickert, and his death Slices away one of the last connections with the pre-war Euston Road School, linked in turn to the great post-impressionist revolution.

After the Second World War, Pasmore broke with figunur rative painting and turned to free, luminous abstract work. and green masses with wiry lines art ... In the junk shops there a battle between English Her-

of intense colour recalls the liberated and joyful work of Matisse. He was a Companion of Honour, his work is in many important public collections and in recent years his prints and paintings have been one of the delights at the Royal Academy's summer exhibitions.

But his relations with official art and the general public have not always been easy. From his post as Master of Painting at Durham University in 1958 be thundered: "The decadem art is in the Royal Academy. There always have been charlatans in



Abstract master: Passmore's Senza Titolo 8 (1989)

must be five done in the traditional style for every rubbishy modern picture produced."

His Apollo Pavilion, an abstract concrete structure in Peterlee, Co Durham, provoked it demolished.

itage, which wanted to list it as an internationally important masterpiece, and local people, who described it as a "slimy old bridge" and wanted

— Andrew Morr

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Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, lays a wreath yesterday at the Bloody Sunday memorial in Londonderry's Bogside Photograph: Brian Little/PA

# Hopes rise in Ulster as UDA pledges end to wave of killings

Tensions in Beifast eased yesterday with an Ulster Defence Association statement that its wave of killings had ended. But as David McKittrick, Ireland Correspondent, reports, a further shooting dashed hopes that the gunfire had ended.

The UDA's declaration, issued under its oom-de-guerre of "Ulster Freedom Fighters", brought a palpable wave of relief to Northern Ireland following the fears geoerated by the eight violeot deaths since

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Christmas. But a subsequent material for up to a dozen sub shooting at Ardoyne, in north Belfast, dispelled hopes that the current crisis was subsiding.

A man, thought to be a Catholic, was taken to hospital with a gunshot wound to the head. At the time of the incident he was working with a megas pipes oear a Loyalist area. In its statement the UDA

blamed the two killings of loyalists by the INLA for its wave of violence. Since New Year's Eve its has killed three Catholic meo and injured a number of

The UDA said it had been responding to republican aggression. "The current phrase of republican aggression by the INLA made a measured military response unavoidable. That response is oow concluded."

But although the loyalist threat diminished with the UDA announcement it has by no means disappeared since another dangerous group, the Loyalist Volunteer Force, remains active. This organisation has accounted for three recent killings of Catholics.

The RUC yesterday moved against both UDA and LVF suspects with a series of raids, arrests and searches in Belfast and the Portadown area of Co Armagh. Last night a total of 13 men were in custody,

In another highly ominous recovered a large amount of powerful explosives from a va-Shankill Road area of Belfast. Police and troops found 100lb of Powergel commercial explosives, which represents enough 1972 incident.

stantial bombs.

All the recent loyalist killings have taken the form of shootings. Loyalists were believed to have only limited amounts of explosives at their disposal; if it proves they retain other substantial amounts, then at some chanical digger helping to lay future stage attacks on targets such as Catholic bars, with the potential of large-scale loss of life, cannot be ruled out.

In recent evenings the number of people going to bars in Catholic districts of Belfast has dropped dramatically.

The receot UDA killing spree raised the question of whether the organisation had simply reverted to straight militarism and did not care whether its political represeotatives, the Ulster Democratic. party, would be expelled from the Stormont multi-party talks.

Yesterday's statement will be seeo as supporting the alternative theory that the UDA was engaged in a finite bout of retaliation for the INLA's killings of lovalist figures Billy Wright and Jim Guiney. The statement, assuming it is adhered to. will ease pressure to have the UDP ejected from the talks.

There is already speculation that the UDP may have played a valuable role in persuading the UDA militants to stop the killing.

In Londonderry development police yesterday Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, laid a wreath at the Bloody Sunday memorial in the Boeside district. cant house in the loyalist He maintained the Irish government's pressure on Tony Blair by calling again for "a full independent inquiry" into the

### Call for halt rise

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helpful at the very least", and could be harmful to people concerned about their weight. The ASA is expected to deliver its verdict on the adverts

in the oext few weeks. An spokesman for Accurist said the company had also received complaints from people about the advertisement, which is no longer running.

Watch firm advert accused

Watchmaker Accurist has been accused of exploiting anorex-

ia in its latest advertising campaign and is being investigat-

Almost 80 people have complained to the Advertising Stan-

ds Authority about an advert which features an emaciat-

ed model wearing a watch on her upper arm under the slogan

"Put some weight oo". The ASA has asked Accurist to re-

spond to complaints that the use of the model is an offen-

sive and light-hearted treatment of eating disorders. "We're

investigating it on the grounds that it might be distressing and

upsetting to people with eating disorders," said an ASA

spokesman. Relatively few complaints were made about the

advert when it first appeared in women's fashion magazines.

sociation, said the association had complained about the ad-

vertisement because deliberately provocative campaigns

using the weight of models to promote products were "un-

Nicky Bryant, chief executive of the Eating Disorders As-

exploiting anorexia

ed by the advertising industry's watchdog.

#### Cod-liver oil health fears

A healthfood chain yesterday took bottles of own-brand codliver oil off its shelves amid fears that the vitamin supplement cootains industrial toxins. Holland & Barrett said it will relabel all its own-brand cod-liver oil, deleting dosage instructions for children under five. The move follows warnings that minute traces of industrial toxins have been found in the product. Government scientists said the levels were "undesirably high" for under-fives, but insisted there was oo health risk

Manufacturers have volunteered to delete instructions for feeding the old-fashioned childreo's diet supplement to under-fives. Holland & Barrett said it was speeding up the process on its own brand bottles by taking them off the shelves and either putting the bottles in new packaging or sticking oew labels on the packets.

#### Mother in court outburst

A mother was led screaming from court yesterday after a man was jailed for three years for shaking her two-year-old daughter to death. Peter Ford, 40, was babysitting while Dawn Allen, 23, was attending a family funeral, Nottingham Crown Court heard. He pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of her daughter, Juniann, oo 23 August 1996. The court heard that he was of low intelligence and had

substantial difficulties. Mr Justice Astill told him: "I am satisfied your lack of judgement in using that degree of force was brought about by your disadvantages. You used a great deal of force simply because you thought she was misbehaving." But Ms Allen, from Nottingham, screamed from the public gallery as the senteoce was passed: "You've got to be joking." As she was led out, she shouted at Ford: "You want life, you killed my daughter."

#### **Correction: Robert** Fleming Holdings

In an article yesterday we incorrectly stated that Sir Robin Reowick, a director of Robert Fleming Holdings, was made a life peer by John Major following a considerable donation by the company to the Conservative Party. We are pleased to point out that Sir Robin was appointed a life peer by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair. His colleague, Lawrence Banks was awarded a CBE by Labour, not by the Conservatives, as incorrectly stated.



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## Oestrogen may be culprit in puzzle over PMT

Pre-menstrual tension is not all in the mind, but neither is it caused by high levels of sex hormones. Jeremy Laurance, health editor. says new findings about the puzzling syndrome could point the way to improved treatments.

The female hurmane, oestrogen, may make some women ill. researchers have found. Although it has never before been seriously considered as a hormone with negative mood effects, there is now sufficient evidence to suggest it may be a cause of PMT Millions of women suffer symptoms including depression, irritability and feelings of bloatcdness up to two weeks before their periods. In one in 40, symptoms are severe enough to prevent sufferers going to work.

Many doctors were unsympathetic, labelling hadly affected women as whingers. Part of the reason came from studies which failed to show any excess level of hormones in sufferers. Support for their view also appeared to come from studies which showed the most effective treatment for PMT was anti-depressants, Over 70 per cent of women with severe symptoms get better when treated with Prozac. But a study has shown the hormones oestrogen and progesterone are at least as important as the study, published in the New central neurotransmitters England Journal of Medicine,



Roseanne Barr, who makes great play of suffering from PMT in her American television sitcom Roseann

Photograph: London Features International

Researchers at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, studied 20 women with severe PMT who were compared with 15 normal women. In the first part of the (brain chemicals) targeted by half the women with PMT Prozac in producing the symp- were given a drug to suppress symptoms.

their ovaries. Their symptoms eased. They were then given, separately, synthetic progesterone and oestrogen. With the addition of each hormone, their symptoms returned. The remaining women with PMT and the normal women, who were treated with a placebo, did not experience a change in

is that manipulation of the hormones had a dramatic effect on the PMT sufferers but none on the "normal" women. Blood tests showed hormone levels were the same in both PMT is "probably the result of the result of a beight ened sensitivity to the normal hormon- and central neurotransmital changes accompanying ters."

The most striking finding menstruation and is not caused by excessive levels of hor-

In an editorial in the journal, Joseph Mortola, of Cook County Hospital, Chicago, says groups. This suggests PMT is a complex interaction between ovarian steroids [hormones]

been expected from other studeasing of their symptoms dur-

He says the finding that giv- ing the early follicular phase of ing progesterone caused the re- the menstrual cycle when oeturn of symptoms in PMT strogen levels are at their highsufferers who had had their cst. If oestrogen is proved to ovaries suppressed could have play a part in development of the syndrome, "it could prompt ies hut the finding that oe- the development of entirely strogen had the same effect was new treatment strategies based surprising. The paradox is that on drugs or hormones with most women with PMT report anti-oestrogenic properties".

#### **Dental** checks for child abuse

Dentists have been given guidelines on how in spot the signs of physical abuse in children through mouth and facial in-

According to research pub-lished today in the British Dental Journal, approximately 50 per cent of cases of child abuse involve injuries to the face or mouth. Bruises are the most common form of injury to the face in child abuse cases.

Today Richard Welbury, from Newcastle Dental Hospital, and Michael Murphy, from North Tyneside Child Protection Unit, published a list of seven "nointers" which may suggest ahuse: The story of an "accidem" being "vague", varying with each telling and from person to

The child saying something about an injury which is inconsistent with the parents' explanation:

 The account of what happened not being compatible with the injury observed;

 Delay in seeking medical help, if at all;

● The parents' mood is abnormal and may be more concerned than necessary with their own problems;

 Parents' hehaviour gives cause for concern, for example they may become hostile and rebut allegations that have not been made, and

The child's appearance and interaction with parents are

#### Call for urgent screening to halt rise in infertility disease

Urgent measures to halt a rapidly-spreading infectious disease that is responsible for up to one third of cases of infertility are to be considered by the Government's chief medical officer next week. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, reports.

An expert advisory group appointed by the Government last year has recommended that women under 25 should be screened for the sexually transmitted disease chlamydia, which affects up to one in five sexually active women in that age

Chlamydia is the commonest STD in Europe. It has been because it is often impossible to detect until it is too late, rereproductive tract. If identified at an early stage, the dis- tomless in women until it asease can be easily cured with a cends the reproductive tract to single dose of antibiotics.

monplace and has led to a This can result in permanent fertility. Cases of pelvic inflammatory disease have risen by 50 per cent in Britain in the past 10 years - from 470 to 700 per 100,000 women at risk.

The recommendations of the expert group, chaired by Professor Allan Templeton, of Aberdeen University, will be considered by the National Screening Committee, chaired hy Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's chief medical officer, this week.

Yesterday, Professor Templeton said: "We looked at a variety of screening methods and we are recommending opportunistic screening should be indescribed as a silent epidemic troduced." Previously, Professor Templeton has said Britain had one of the best health services sulting in infection causing ir- in the world hut was "like reversible damage to the Latvia" on chlamydia screening. Screening Committee.

Chlamydia is normally sympthe fallopian tubes, causing In Europe, screening is com- pelvic inflammatory disease.

infertility and ectopic pregnancy. Chlamydia also affects men. causing non-specific urethritis. In Britain, studies show that

between 3-10 per cent of women attending family planning clinics carry the micro-organism but the proportion rises to more than 20 per cent among those seeking abortion.

Opportunistic screening means that women would be tested only when they consulted the doctor for other reasons. The test, which can be conducted on a urine sample, costs £4-6 which the expert group says would be re-couped in savings on later treatment. A spokeswoman for the health department said that ministers would be considering the report in the light of advice from the National

# **DEFENCE** CONDENSATION

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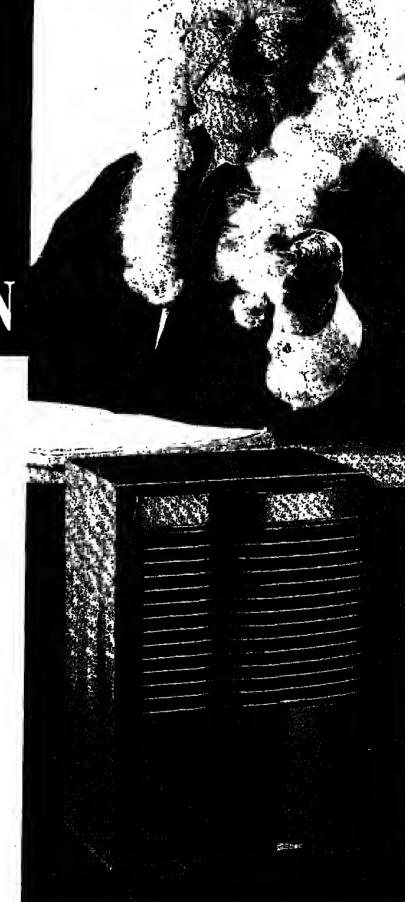
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### MoD launches website for sick Gulf War veterans

yesterday launched a new Internet service for victims of Gulf War illnesses, Jan Burreli reports that the move is partly a response to serious problems with official studies into the causes of the sickness.

The Government

Dr John Reid, the armed forces minister, promised yesterday that "every piece of information that is revealed to me" will be released to the sick veterans on the new website, which went on line last night.

The minister is anxious to send a message to the veterans that the Ministry of Defence is doing everything it can to try and identify the cause of the illnesses as quickly as possible.

He added: "What I cannot do is play God and just invent a cause when there is no known cause." The new Gulf Veterans' III-

nesses website is an attempt

to rid the MoD of accusations

that it is involved in a cover-

programme and reports on the various pieces of research which have been commissioned into the many possible causes of the illness, including vaccines, pesticide sprays and chemical weapons.

MoD's medical assessment

But behind the launch of the site lies a serious problem. Dr Reid admitted yesterday that researchers involved in major epidemiological studies into the prevalence of the illnesses are having great difficulty in getting sufficient numbers of veterans to take

The minister said: "[The problems] are serious. There are difficulties with us getting names and addresses." He added that as a result of the problems the studies had fallen behind with their schedules.

Two British funded epidemiological studies are being carried out by the University nf Manchester and the London School of Hygiene and be grossly unfair to everyone Tropical Medicine.

The Manchester team aims to contact 10,000 veterans and the London study is the illness." seeking responses from all up. It will offer details of the 53,000 who served in the cam-

paign, of which 25,000 are still in the services. The researchers are send-

ing nut 5,000 leners a fortnight in an effnn in get a greater An American-funded epi-

demiological study is being carried out at King's College School of Medicine in London. Veicrans' groups had warned that many would not co-operate with the research when it was annunced in Last weekend, a contingent

of veterans marched nn the MoD to hand back their campaign medals in a protest that too little was being done to help their plight. Dr Reid said that he was

saddened by the protest but could not agree to calls made by MPs for a no-fault compensation scheme to be set up paying each sick veteran a fixed amount.

He said: "To do so would else who has served their country and then become ill without knowing the cause of .

The Web address is www.mod.uk.gulfwar/gvi.htm.

### Millennium party to leave Britain with bill of the century

Celebrating the Millennium is going to cost a lot of money. Andrew Buncombe examines the bill behind the party to end all parties.

In Cardiff the retractable roof on the new National Stadium will he the envy of the sporting world. In Cornwall, a rainforest and a desert will be among four different environments contained with the Eden Project "hiomes". In London the Tate will establish a new national gallery of modern art.

These projects are among sponsorship. 185 around Britain ranging from the grand to the smallscaled which are being funded by the Millennium Commission to mark the changeover from 31.12. 1999 to 01.01.2000. The commission says it will be longlasting projects which will benefit not only our children "but our children's children".

But these things do not come cheap. Yesterday it was revealed that marking and celebrating the Millennium will for every man, woman and

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every year until 2028.

Around £1.9hn is coming from the Millennium Commission and is money which has been raised by the National Lotspent on the 185 capital projects which have to have "match funding" from other sources.

In addition the commission will be spending £400m on the Greenwich Dome, £200m on grants for individuals and £20m for festivals in 2000. The remainder of the £4bn will come from local authorities, government departments and private

Some economists believe that the amount being spent on the Millennium - revealed for the first time by the commission yesterday - will have a noticeable effect on the economy. .

Simon Briscoe, economist with securities house Nikko Europe, said it could add to upward pressure on wage demands, particularly in the areas of information technology and light construction. "We are in a delicate position with the economy and at the margins this could have some effect," he said.

child in Britain, or enough to It was pointed out, however. produce a film such as Titanic that the total, around half a per cent of GDP, is much less than £30bn-£35bn banded out by building societies last year in the form of free shares.

But for some the whole istery. Of this £1.25bn is being sue of the celebrations and projects creates what might hest he described as millennium angst. A survey published vesterday showed that twothirds of Britain's Roman Catholic bishops have expressed opposition to the Greenwich Dome project and feel the £758m it will eventually cost would be better spent housing the homeless or writing off the debts of the developing world.

Archhishop Joho Ward of Cardiff called the Dome "a big white elephant" and warned it could become a "monument to stupidity".

A commission spokesman said: "Some people say it is a waste of money but at the moment people can only see the foundations of these projects.

We are using public money and it is correct that people should question things. However, this is money that is going back into the community to fund the ideas of ordinary people."



Golden touch: Curator Victor Gray unpacking a statue of NM Rothschild at the Museum of London in the City for an exhibition of the life of the banking dynasty's founder, who came to England from Frankfurt's Jewish ghetto in 1798. The show opens on 28 January

### Schools 'hit squad' attacks Hackney over £3m deficit

ty has been attacked by a government "bit squad" for financial incompetence which resulted in a £3m hole in the schools' hudget, part of which went unnoticed for nearly six months.

Poor hudget management at Hackney, east London, meant the council did not realise the size of its deficit until halfway through the following financial Council staff are heavily

criticised for their financial management in an interim report by an improvement team appointed by the Government which was released today.

report and recommendations.

ernment fully backed the team's "I am encouraged to note that progress is being made. However, no one should he in

Stephen Byers said the Gov-

The hit squad was appointed by the Government last year after school inspectors con-

fully support the children of

School standards minister for up to three years - which

demned Hackney's education service as being "in disarray".

Its first recommendation the appointment of a chief education officer - has just been implemented by Hackney and it will be working with appointee Elizabeth Reid to produce its final report in June.

Oversights singled out in the report include the authority discovering in December last year that schools had not been charged for gas supplies could result in a hill of close to

£1m for headteachers. And the team also highlighted a shortfall of £966,000 hetween the hudget allocation for staff in 1997-98 and the ac-

A troubled education authori- more that needs to be done to were already established and filled.

vickly to begin the compensation cital hich could now b

ecision expected

Where money has been saved, the report goes on, it was "not from decisive management, hut from keeping posts vacant as staff have left". The team says proposals to

further devolve financial planning could make matters worse.

Though the reorganisation is planned to easure value for money of public funds, we have considerable doubts whether this will be the final outcome."

Instead it suggests the council commissions a comprehensive financial review.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "This" report confirms the worst fears of head teachers in Hackney.

The State

"The financial systems are clearly a disaster and the incompetent management of its finances has placed school budany doubt that there is still much tual staff costs for posts that gets at risk."



A 62-year-old man yesterday admitted a catalogue of sexual assaults on young children spanning more than 20 years.

Victor Burton-Barri pleaded guilty at Bristol Crown Court to 39 charges, including indecent assault and taking obscene photographs. He denied nine further charges, including rape and buggery, which were left on the file.

The offences took place over a 20-year period and involved five children, including a four-year-old girl. None of the youngsters involved can be identified for legal

Ian Fenny, prosecuting, told the court that a "buge amount" of paedophile material was seized from the accused's house at Charlecombe Park at Portishead, near Bristol.

He said photos, videos and hundreds of pages of stories or articles had been found at the house, all of which were of an "obscene ... paedophile nature".

Judge Carol Hagen asked for psychiatric and pre-sentence reports to he prepared and said: "Today you have entered guilty pleas to very serious offences. It will be the reports that will guide me as to the appropriate length of that sentence."

Burton-Barri was arrested in March last year after an inquiry that lasted six months. He was remanded in custody to be sentenced at a later date.

#### Damages of £1 m to abused family

Damages of more than IR£1m were agreed yesterday in a negligence action arising from Ireland's worst ever sex abuse case. Lawyers for the North Western Health Board agreed to pay the damages to Sophia Mc-

Colgan, 27, her sister and two brothers. The out-of-court settlement came after a 13-day hearing in the Dublin High Court. Joseph McColgan, the father of the four children, was jailed for 12 years in 1995 after being convicted of assaults on them from 1976 until 1993, including rape and huggery. He also beat his son Gerard with a shovel and a spanner, breaking his arm. It also emerged he had used a cattle syringe to inject spermicide into his daughters' vaginas to prevent them becoming pregnant.

The defence effectively collapsed after it emerged health board files confirmed that in 1979 Mrs McColgan had complained of her husband heating her children, and that she had discussed putting them into care.

She had also talked of getting a separation after the eldest child Sophia, then 10, was admitted to hospital after her father, a County Sligo farmer, had broken her nose.

The McColgan children sued the board and their GP. The settlement was agreed. without admission of liability. Sophia Mc-Colgan urged other victims of abuse "to realise that there is no shame in having been. abused. The shame lies with the abuser and not with the victim".

#### Palace guard jailed over drug death

The friend of a Buckingham ment in getting the drugs. Palace guardsman was yesterday iailed for his part in supplying drugs which killed him.

Gareth Holland, 20, collapsed and died last year within five hours of taking ecstasy tablets at a nightclub while on weekend leave.

His colleague Matthew Diggle, 22. admitted his involveCardiff Crown Court heard

that Ptes Holland and Diggle travelled from their homes in South Wales to enjoy a night out m Swansea. Pte Holland swallowed two ecstasy pills and amphetamines at a club.

He was taken to the club's "chill out" room to recover after overheating but later died

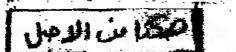
before he reached hospital: Earlier this week Diggle, of

Rhymney, Mid Glamorgan, appeared with Russell Thomas, 30, of Clos Liws Pen, Penpedairheol, Mid Glamorgan, who admitted supplying drugs to both. soldiers.

Yesterday, Diggle was jailed for two years. Thomas was sentenced for three-and-a-half years



There's a Great Deal going on



luad' attacks

# Pitmen win historic court victory for damage to health

The Government yesterday moved quickly to begin negotiations on compensation claims of up to £1 bn which could now be due to coal miners suffering from chest diseases. Barrie Clement, Labour Editor, reports on a High Court decision expected to lead to the biggest compensation payout by a single employer.

Up to 100,000 former pitmen could now be in line for compensation following a ruling that the old nationalised coal industry was negligent and liable for the ill-health nf underground workers.

In a particularly controversial passage of his judgment, Mr Justice Turner said that managers had frequently falsified the measurement of coal dust in working areas so that production was not impaired.

tens of thousands of pounds each for "shock, more than £230,000 for "hurt feelings" and pain and suffering", some union officials said the payouts are likely to be "puny" when compared with the kind of compensation enjoyed





Beating the odds: Glyn Jones (left), 77, was one of the successful claimants demanding compensation for health damaged by mining Photograph: Topham Picturepoint

While individuals could eventually receive cal authority official was recently awarded in aggravated damages after a sex-discrim-

The level of payment to former pitmen Mr Justice Turner will hear evidence on 6 communities offering advice in return for will clearly depend on their age, the degree of incapacity they have suffered and ination case. Many of the former miners have whether they are capable of earning a livhad their lives blighted by crippling diseases ing. Some sources said the payouts were ately warned former miners that "all sorts in other employment cases. One female lofor years, the unions pointed nut yesterday. likely to vary between £2,000 and £60,000. of vultures" were descending on their

February about claims for loss of earnings, medical care and costs.

Union officials and solicitors immedi-

a percentage of the compensation. Special help lines have been set up by solicitors.

Tom Jones, of solicitors Thompsons, which represented one of the six men who were successful in the test case, said the ruling would lead to the highest ever compensation bill for a single British employer. While British Coal would have been tiable before il was wound up, the hill was now the responsibility of the Government.

Mr Jones pointed out that the state had received £1bn from the sale of British Coal land and had recently raked in £770m from a surplus in the industry's pensinn fund. This massive judgment brings hope to tens of thousands of miners who have had their health destroyed by the negligence of British Coal," he said, adding that Thomp-

sons has some 3,000 cases in the pipeline. The solicitor accused senior coal industry managers of putting production before the health of miners. "There are some at the top levels of British Coal who should hang their heads in shame at this judgment," Mr Jones said.

Former miners will now be seeking medical evidence to back up claims, while officials are likely to argue that some of the illnesses may be due other causes such as cigarette smoking. Any underground worker who was employed in the industry since it was nationalised in 1947 is covered by yesterday's judgment.

The first hearings began in October 1996 and the case ran for most of last year.

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#### L Justice achieved against huge odds

Emotion was never far away at but behind the new face in the Merthyr Tydfil yesterday. Flanked by lawyers and officials of the National Association of Colliery Overseers, Deputies and Shot-Firers, two of the successful claimants, Glyn Jones and Connie Wells, acted with

great dignity.

Mrs Wells's husband, Sam, £3m deficit died on 10 August 1994 - his 71st conditions can be frightening. the legal action begun five years

> "Sam would have been proud to have been here today. I was very glad to take over and I'm happy at the outcome, it away." means a lot for the thousands of miners who suffered from dust diseases."

home from 1938 to 1979, when emphysema and pneumoconiosis forced him to retire.

Shortly before his death he never saw, it because he was too War. ill to walk the few yards to the

Handicapped by long expo-sure to colliery dust, Mr Jones, , 77, and smartly dressed in a grey suit spoke slowly: "No amount of money will give someone back their health. But this judgment in London will assist sufferers and widows.

"All heavy industry has gone

Valleys there's immense suffering." he said.

An oxygen bottle is always carried in Mr Jones's car and one is always on hand at his house in Clive Terrace, Ynysybwl, where he lives with his wife of 49 years, Kitty.

He said: "Life with these birthday. She replaced him in I could be using my nebuliser upstairs at 11 at night.

"But things might be so had that I would have to be taken by amhulance to the East Glamorgan hospital a few miles

Peter Evans, a solicitor and partner in Hugh James, the firm handling some of the compen-Mr Wells had worked at sation cases, described the collieries near his Maesteg judge's ruling as "a damning indictment of British Coal at all levels and throughout its entire

He said British Coal was bought a new car which Mrs the largest employer in West-Wells decorated with ribbons ern Europe immediately after and put in the garage; Mr Wells the end of the Second World

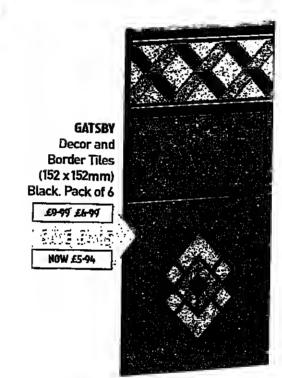
> "There will be thousands of similar claims, with a hill for compensation of around £1hn.

As Mrs Wells and Mr Jones walked slowly to cars waiting to drive them home, pride rather than pounds was on show.

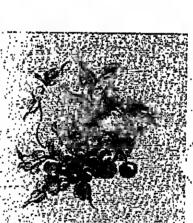
Justice, they said, was at last being achieved against the most formidable odds.

- Tony Heath

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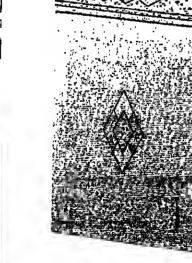
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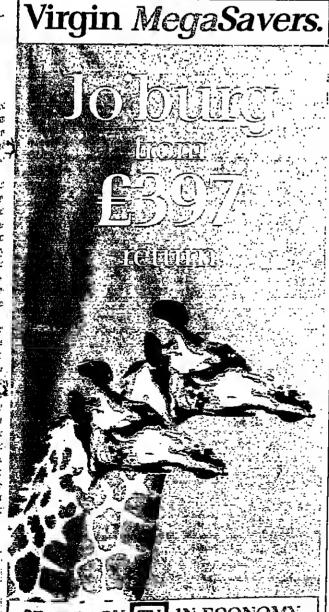




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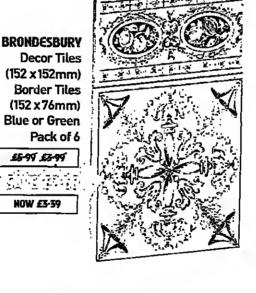
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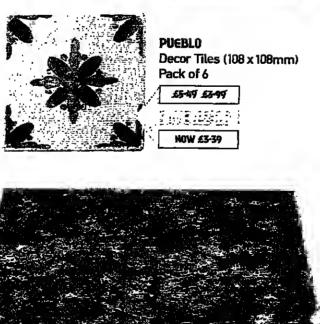
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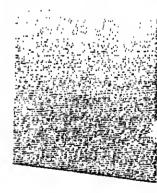
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# 8/ZEPPELINS

# Hindenburg veteran witnesses airship's new beginning





Maiden journey: A German crowd watching the first flight of a Zeppelin airship for more than 50 years (Photograph: Bernard Bisson/Sygma). Right: The Hindenburgh turns into a fireball as it is about to land in the United States 61 years ago

A strange cigar-shaped object has been spotted over

Friedrichshafen, the town where Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin first took to the air 98 years ago. Imre Karacs investigates.

In a cavernous hall on the edge of Lake Constance, the monster stirs. At the flick of a switch, the instrumeot panel begins to glow, a dark screens flicker with incomprehensible charts, and pumps whire noisity into life. The dinosaur imprisoned in this Jurassic Park of extinct technology strains at its leash.

The Zeppelin, amazingly, is back. By the standards of its famous predecessors, the model currently undergoing air-worthiness trials is a midget. The Zeppelin NT - the initials stand for "New Technology" - is a mere 246 feet in leogth. The Hindenburg, consumed in a ball of fire as it came ioto land in New Jersey 61 years ago, was three

times as long.

The ill-fated Zeppelio was also taller. heavier, and carried more passengers in infinitely greater luxury than its offspring ever will. There is no room in the gondola today for the Hindenburg's restaurant, piano and individual cahins. There is just about enough space for the pilot and

#### SCI-FI WRITERS WAX LYRICAL OVER A FUTURE WORLD OF BLIMPS

Airships had not been invented in Elizabethan England. Nor in the early stages of the nineteenth century. This is the only way to explain the cruel neglect Zeppelins have suffered at the hands of Shakespeare and Dickens. Thankfully for blimp enthusiasts, many modern writers have built their narratives around the phenomenon of gaseous elipses flying through our skies, with varying degrees of success.

The publication of George Griffiths' The Angel of the Revolution in 1893 marked an Im-

portant watershed in the development of science-fiction, and used blimps to evoke a future-worldliness. By the late 1970s a loving pastiche of this sort of writing had appeared, most notably by Michael Moorcock, whose The Warlard of the Air, forming a part of the Bastable trilogy, gave the airships a pivotal role in holding together a British empire that had avoided the fate of the historical one.

Perhaps the most successful since then, was Phillip Pullman's Northern Lights. Published as the first part of a children's trilogy in 1996,

it has been translated into 17 languages. It is set in an alternative universe, where people use airships rather as we might use trains or aeruplanes. Having spent the best part of a year in the top five of the US children's sales list, it has managed to balance commercial advance with critical acclaim, winning the Carnegie medal and a Guardian fiction award.

Michael M Mooney's The Hindenburg was published in 1974. Later filmed with George C Scott and Anne Bancroft, Mooney's novel suggests the reason for the

Hindenburg's explosion was sabotage, by anti-Nazi forces in pre-war Germany.

In 1981, John Brosnan produced the epic-Skyship. This tale of modern technology sees a huge blimp - The Phoenix - running on a nuclear-powered generator. More recent is Pamela Oldfield's Falling From Grace, published In 1995, which concerns a hudding romance within the design-and-huild team on the R-(0); Britain's answer to von Zeppelin's beast

100 per cent safe," Mr Mugler asserts. The first few are likely to be used for - Gidon Freeman tourism: day trips over the Alps at the leisurely pace of 80mph. Other possible applications include atmospheric research and surveillance, for instance of national bor-

> The Zeppelin company has oo immediate plans to build Hindenburg-sized behemoths, but another German firm is toying with the idea. Cargolifter, a Berlin-based company backed by Siemens and Asea Brown Boveri, unveiled plans this week to build giant airships that could transport massive loads. The prototype of this "floating crane" should be ready by 2000, exactly 100 years after von Zeppelin's pioneering flight. Look out for cigar-shaped objects; overhead.

ders, fishing zones and pipelines.

been ordered so far. Apart from the shape

the new Zeppelin has little in common, of

course, with the first generation. Inflam-

mable hydrogen gas has been replaced with

inert belium. The aircraft is powered by

three swivelling propellers, which are co-

ordinated from the space-age cockpit by so-

phisticated computer systems. There is no

need for ballast because the propellers

alone are able to lift the lightweight frame

or hring it to land softly. The skeleton is

made up of tough aluminium and carbon

composite, while the envelope uses synthetic

materials not available to the count. "It is

co-pilot, plus leather armchairs for 12 passengers. The manufacturers are also trying to squeeze in a lavatory and tiny kitchen.

But size isn't everything. Who would have predicted after 1937 that rigid-frame airships would ever be built? The Hindenburg disaster and the arrival of the aeroplane appeared to have put an eod to this kind of aircraft, deemed even more dangerous than hot-air halloons. The company founded by the count in Friedrichshafen, shut down the production lines overnight and turned its attention to gearboxes and military technology. What remained of the

original hangar and the town itself was eventually flatteoed by the RAF.

"There was oo interest io this kind of nostalgia after the war," said the Zeppelin group's president, Max Mugler. Zeppelins became the stuff of science-fiction writers; flights of fancy for UFO-lovers and hohby-horses for adherents of the "Lighter than Air" fraternity.

In the past decade, however, the fad turned serious. Research of German archives and an upswing in interest in environmentally friendly transport revealed that Zeppelios, if anything, had been

ahead of their time. "Many people came mer. On 18 September, the new Zeppelin to us, asking for mooey," Mr Mugler says. "In the end we decided to do it ourselves."

In 1993, the Zeppelin group, a company with an annual turnover of DM10ba (£5.5bn), took a leap into the past. The airship subsidiary was revived, "air-head" technicians were hired, and research began ancw. The count's last surviving granddaughter chipped in with several million marks. Although no longer in family hands. another von Zeppelin, distant relative Wolf-

gang, is one of the new subsidiary's managers. The prototype was completed last sum-

soared into the sky for the first time, flew over a lake, and landed safely after a short journey in front of 30,000 people - more than half the town's population. Among the crowd stood the frail figure of 93-year-old Josef Braun, wearing his 1937 Hindenburg uniform. He declared himself happy to have witnessed "the Zeppelin airship's new beginning".

There have so far been four test flights; fifth is planned for the end of next week. If it obtains the necessary safety certificate, production is expected to begin in the autumn. Five, costing DM12.5m each, have

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Hostel before exploring the Blue Mountains with Oz Experience (stand 78). Then taking the 'Fair Dinkum' bus you will travel up the East coast and through the red centre of Australia. The lucky winners will experience 200ft of rush jumping from Australia's highest Bungy at Airlie Beach, all arranged by "Barrier Reef Bungy" and the feeling of free fall by tandem skydiving from 8,000ft and landing on Mission Beach, courtesy of "Jump the Beach Skydives". The Oz Experience pass includes a flight from Cairns to Darwin and transport down to Alice Springs, Cooper Pedy, Flinders Ranges, Adelaide and Melbourne from where they will take the Lauda Air flight home.

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fortable mountain lodge at the edge of the

A day will also be spent in an Icelandic "Super Jeep" travelling from Reykjavik into the highlands, visiting Gullfoss the golden waterfall and Geysir, the hot spring area, 3. What infamous waterfall forms the

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# GTech chief to quit lottery job if he loses bribery case

'I don't

care if



Guy Snowden: Suing Richard Branson over claims he offered him a bribe

**Branson** gives money to charity or

turnover of around £100m a replied. He agreed that GTech

week, of which Camelot takes had "three bites of the cherry",

in the lottery: the company's

share in Camelot, supplying the

machinery to retailers and sup-

plying another company with

parts for the machines.

10 per cent. Mr Carman said:

"All in all, Glech has done

quite nicely out of the Nation-

"Certainly," Mr Snowden

al Lottery in terms of profit."

burns it'

to do, he said: "I've got share- hribe Mr Branson as he did not

give to charity or burn it, it

would have been no need to

see him as a threat. "I had a lot

Mr Snowden said there

doesn't matter to me."

Mr Snowden agreed that

the profits of most lotteries in

the rest of the world go to char-

ity. When asked if that wasn't

what Mr Branson had wanted

holders that have to be looked

Branson] very high, based on

the degree of preparation he

had undertaken at that time."

Photograph: Tom Pilstor

Guy Snowden, chief executive of the US lottery company GTech. said yesterday that if the jury found that he had offered a bribe to Richard Branson, he would resign his directorship of Camelot which runs the National Lottery. Rosa Prince was in the High Court to hear the argument.

In a day of heated exchanges in the courtroom, the chief executive of GTech, which owns a 22 per cent share in Camelot, continued to deny he had offered Richard Branson a bribe at a lunch in September 1993 to pull out of the bidding to run the National Lottery.

Guy Snowden, whose British De La Rue, Racal, ICL, and Cadbury-Schweppes, said he was aware of Mr Branson as a "very famous man" before the entrepreneur issued the invitation to lunch.

Two days before the meeting, Mr Branson had telephoned Mr Snowden and told him he was going to enter a hid, and that he was aware of GTech's expertise, plans. Mr Snowden said he was already committed to a consortium but the two men talked give all the operator profits to served it." harity, and the percentages in-

volved. Mr Snowden said he was happy to meet to explore potential husiness possibilities.

When asked by his barrister, Richard Ferguson QC, if he remembered saying the words: "In what way can we help you, Richard?" he replied: "I do not recall those at all. The only thing I said was, 'What can we do together?"."

Mr Ferguson asked if he remembered saying: "I mean, what can I do for you personally?" Mr Snowden replied: "In no way did I ever say personally." Mr Snowden was asked by

George Carman QC, on hehalf of Richard Branson, if he could see any circumstances in which it would be proper to stay on as a director of Camelot if the jury found he had attempted to bribe Mr Branson. "I think it would he unlikely," he said.

Mr Branson is being sued for libel over allegations he made in a Panorama programme in partners in Camelot were to be 1995 that he was offered a hribe by Mr Snowden to withdraw his bid to run the lottery.

The Virgin chief is in turn suing GTech and Mr Snowden for libel after they said the bribe allegation was untrue.

As one of the largest individual shareholders in GTech, Mr Snowden told the court he held £30m capital. In addition, he received £3m earnings in and wanted it to be part of his 1997 from GTech, two and a half times his earnings in 1993.

When asked by Mr Carman why his salary had increased by about Mr Branson's plans to so much, he said: "Because I de-

The National Lottery has a



after. If Mr Branson wants to of other competitors ... I Panorama programme conwouldn't have ranked him [Mr taining Mr Branson's allegations. "It was extremely unfair,"

he said. "To actually see it on a

broadcast was humiliating. I

Mr Snowden described his felt pursued and very uncom-

### Murder charge man claims lover ell in her bath

he man accused of the urder of one woman nd the attempted nurder of another told a ourt yesterday that he aw someone running rom the house in which prostitute had been eft beaten, and that two months later his lover apparently fell in her bath and drowned.

t holidays

the Bar the in sold reports

What is a first on a surprise state of

and the second A man accused of attempting to murder a prostitute told a court yesterday that he found her slumped in the kitchen of her home after seeing a man leav-

Victor Farrant, 48, said he panicked when he saw the man returning, and he dashed out of the house.

He denies the attempted murder of the prostitute, Ann Fidler, who was found at home at Eastleigh, Hampshire, in December 1995.

He also denies the murder of accountant Glenda Hoskins, -tames a secretal forms the 45, whose body was found in the attic of her waterside home at Portsmouth on 7 February 1996.

to state the west Tonding and Zarry Sacret series 5 actives cell us why an earlier visit to Mrs Fidler after seeing an earlier after seeing after seeing an earlier after seeing after seeing after seeing an earlier after seeing af name of "Alex", and on 27 December 1995, while out jobhunting, he had decided to see

When he knocked, there was no reply and he assumed she was seeing a customer. He hung around and saw someone come out of the house and then knocked on the door. He could see something in the kitchen and went in there. "There was ness on the floor. I can remember glass. I could hear it runching under my feet, there

was blood on the floor. I was very shocked" he said.

He told Winchester Crown Court that in the kitchen he kicked a bag of tools he had been carrying whilst looking for work on building sites and realised he must have put the bag down when he knelt by Mrs Fidler.

He picked up several of the tools, hits of glass, and an iron casing. "I knew I had touched some things when I cleared the dehris. I didn't know exactly what I had touched, so I just hasically grabbed everything within arm's reach" he said.

Earlier yesterday, he told the court of his sexual relationship with Mrs Hoskins, who is survived by a husband, from whom she was separated, and three children. He said he had met her in August 1993 and said their sexual relationship was very active".

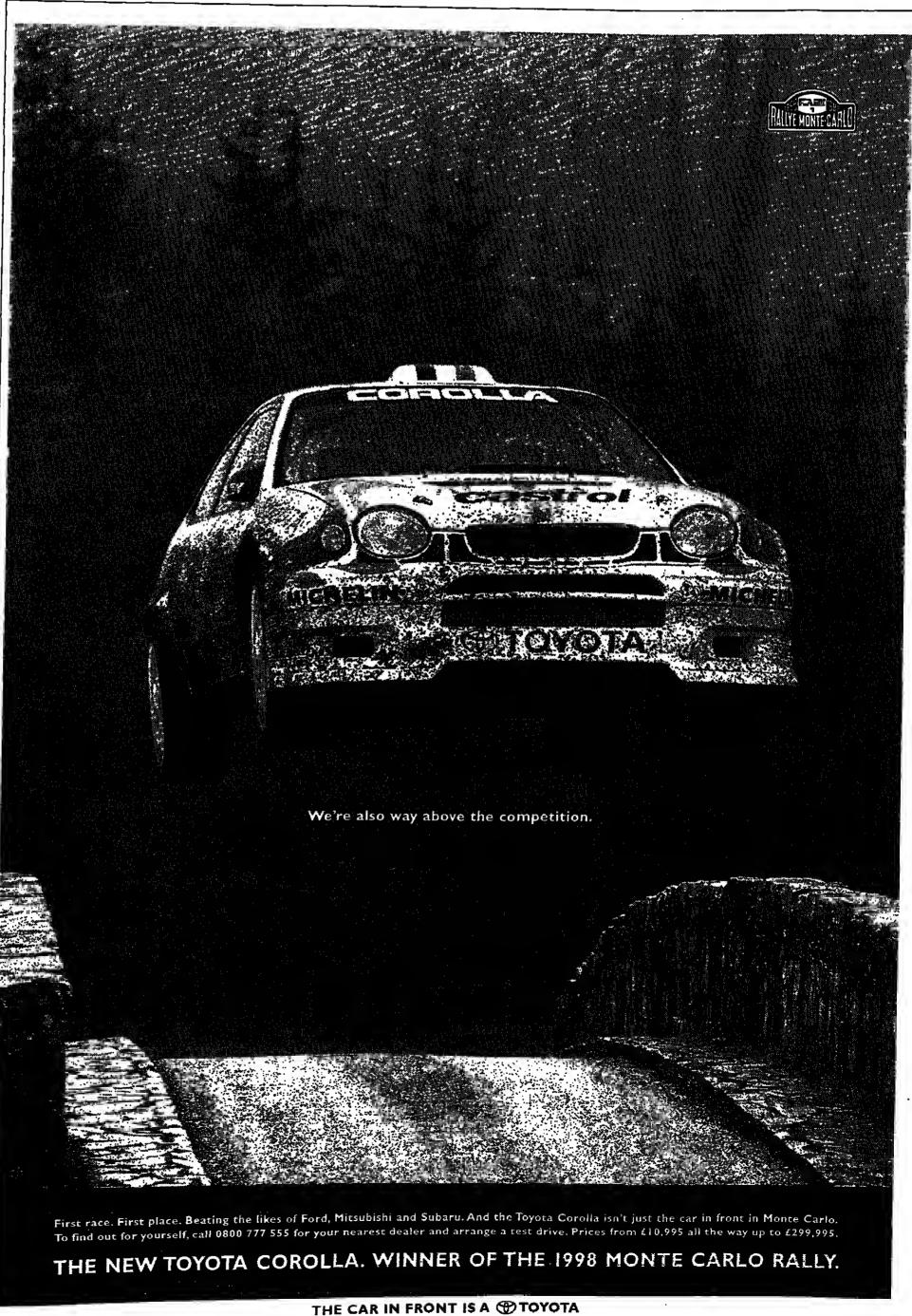
On 7 Fehruary, 1996, Mrs Hoskins had taken two children to school and when she returned home he had gone in and they started having sex. Afterwards. he said, they had a bath and then got out and dried them-

He walked out of the bathroom and could not see anything but heard a crash and the sound of splashing water.

He went into the bedroom and got dressed and thought Mrs Hoskins was giving him the silent treatment. He returned to the bathroom and found her lying in the bath on her back. He pulled her out and tried to give her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but was not able to revive

her or get a pulse. He later decided to hide Mrs Hoskins in the attic. There was a carpet there. "I wanted to cover her up so I just lifted the car-

pet over," he said. The case continues.



Martin Bell MP, the former foreign correspondent, was under fire again yesterday over accusations that he failed to declare all his election expenses, Andrew Buncombe reports on the latest political flak flying around in Tatton.

Mr Bell, as usual in his trademark light suit, threw down the gauntlet and suggested he would resign if he discovered his electorate had lost confidence

In a combative yet oervous performance, he told a packed press conference he was unaware that legal advice he had taken before the last election, costing £9,400, had been paid for by Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

"I fought an extraordinary campaign, it was not a campaign but a crusade. My whole campaign was run by volunteers," he said. "I really thought it was free. Everything was free."

"If I was innocent (in thinking it came free), I don't think being politically innoceot is an indictable offeoce. I guess I know rather more about politics now."

He added that be would be asking his constituents to write to him with their views. "If they have lost confidence in me which I doubt - I will reconsider my position."

Mr Bell called the press conference after it was claimed that a £9,400 legal bill had not been declared in his election expenses. Inspection of the declaration shows this to be the

But Mr Bell, who was elected to the Tatton seat after Labour and Lib-Dems withdrew their candidates, said be bad only become aware of the hill two days ago. He said there was oo reason the moocy should have been declared as an out of the water," be said....



Shadowman: Martin Bell faces tough questioning at his press conference in Knutsford yesterday

election expense, as he had not been an official candidate at the

"If I had not takeo legal advice. I would have been hlown

former Conservative MP Neil Hamilton by a majority of more than 11,000, took legal advice legal action over the former scription was defamatory.

Mr Bell, who famously beat BBC journalist's plan to describe himself oo the hallot paper as an "anti-corruptioo" candidate. Mr Hamiltoo wrote after Mr Hamilton threatened to Mr Bell, claiming the de-

Yesterday Mr Hamiltoo seized no the controversy and said Mr Bell should resign. "I think this exposes what we knew all along - that Mr Bell is a hypocritical fraud," he said. "He was said he had oot incurred any le-

posing as an independent ... but his campaign was managed by Labour spin doctors, his legal expenses were paid by them and oone of this was revealed." He

gal fees, as he had written the letter himself.

Photograph: Phil Noble/Newsteam

Opinions at Westminster differed last night on whether the affair would blow over. Mr

'If voters have lost confidence in me, which I doubt, I will reconsider my position

"small storm in a small teacup". But Mr Hamilton said that while he was oot looking to launch a legal challenge against Mr Bell, it would only take one complaint from a constituent to trigger an investigation.

Mr Bell said that, if there was to be a by-election, he would consider his position. Mr Hamilton said he would oot stand. The Tatton Conservative Association said it would not consider either Mr Hamilton or his wife Christine as candidates.

The acting returning officer for the Borough of Macclesfield. Brian Longden, said any challenge to election expenses had to be made in a petition to the courts by a local voter or else a candidate. "It is outside the scope of the returning officer to carry out an investigation."

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Committee amen

Joe Jacob, Law Professor at the Loodon School of Economics, told the BBC: "I would be gobsmacked if Bell were held

### was a political innocent, says Bell, as former colleagues give him a grilling

than this" mottered a besieged Martin Bell as he sat down to face some hard questioning from former colleagues at a press conference in his cramped constituency office in

He was clearly nervous and uncomfortable in froot of the lights, and his voice wavered at gal fees were oormally declared

times as answers were demanded to the questions about legal expenses of £9,400 paid by the Liberal Democrat and Labour parties during his general election campaign.

"I honestly did not know about them until two days ago" he said, with a pleading for understanding in his voice.

Mr Bell maintained that le-

asked why, as an independent MP, he should be singled out in No one else he argued, had

been asked to declare their legal expenses. He was asked if Conservatives would bave voted for him had they known Labour and the Liberal Democrats had paid his legal fees. He answered that people knew

as campaign expenses and he that both of those parties bad withdrawn their candidates in

Who bave I upset ... I ask you to speculate ... I didn't like this ocws. If I bad known then I would have found a way of declaring it ... The playing field is tilted against a citizen MP. If any good comes out of this it will be a reform of the electoral

harder, he was almost shouted at by those who wanted to that what he was handing to him know how could be have been so naive to think legal advice

would be free. "If I was a political innoceot Mr Bell. ... I am not so innocent oow he I was out there campaigning."

A beavy document was thrust at him by a journalist who

The questinning hecame said be bad worked oo the cash-for-questions scandal and was proof that Neil Hamiltoo had dooe no wrong. "I will look at it" whispered a rattled

The MP wanted to take said. "I was not in the backroom comfort in the support of his constituents. "I have only bad one letter of complaint in eight mooths. That's not bad."

had enough though. He said he believed a mountain was being made out of a molehill, or it was a storm in teacup, and if he was still on the other side of the camera be would have told his oews editor so.

Still, the same questions about his failure to declare the legal fees as campaign expenses kept coming, and

It was soon clear Mr Bell had be muttered "We could go oo up and down this all morn-

> Sooo he was oo his feet out still stopping briefly to answer individual questions and to be interviewed outside for televisioo in the late morning chill, with onlookers nodding their recognition of the man in the

- Esther Leach

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#### Labour trips up over claim that Ffion travelled free

The Tories called on Tony Blair to give one of his spin doctors a dressing down last night for a 'scandalous smear' suggesting William Hague's wife, Ffion, had flown to Hong Kong at the taxpayers' expense. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, reports on red faces around No 10.

A senior party source close to No 10 was red faced last night after briefing journalists that William Hague's wife, Ffion, had gone to Hong Kong on free tickets provided by the Government for the bandover ceremony in the former colony.

The booting was an attempt to deflect criticism of ministers for travelling with their partners or spouses at the taxpayers' expense. But it backfired when it turned out to be incorrect.

The Tories hit back by insisting that she had not gone at the taxpayers' expense, and Michael Howard, the shadow Foreign Secretary, demanded an apology in a letter to the Prime Minister attacking it as "a scandalous attempt to smear the Leader of the Oppositioo and his wife".

The gaffe came as Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, spearheaded the Government's attempt to draw a line under recent public relations disasters,

from cuts in single-parent benefits to reports of the rift between Gordon Brown and Tony Blair. Mr Straw insisted it was not

a relaunch. And it was not rehranding oew Labour. He redisenchaoted traditional Labour vnters that the Government's support was based on a "new coalitinn". It was important to recognise that, he said. "New Labour woo be-



William Hague's wife, Ffion: No free ticket

cause it was able to appeal to a wide range of people - not just traditional Labour voters but many others who voted Labour for the first time in May."

Mr Straw, ooe of the leading modernisers in the Cabinet, asserted that Mr Blair's government was firmly based in the "radical centre" of British politics, and reached out beyond the traditional left-right divide. "Where we can work together with other parties or with peo- more damage oo Mr Blair.

ple with oo party political background, we will do so. We are not driven by dogma but by ideas and pragmatism," he told a party eeting in Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

Taking up Mr Blair's appeal to the Cabinet not to indulge in "departmentitis", he said: "Too few of us have been spelling out the larger picture." Mr Blair gave the task of

spearheading the Government's fight back to Mr Straw partly because he accounted for himself well during a difficult week at new year of speculation over his son's involvement with cannabis. The Tories claimed yesterday that be was also allocated the task in put Gordon Brown in his place. "Tony Blair is trying to take back control of his government's welfare policies from Gordoo Brown and in an attempt to do so, he bas briefed against Brown and promoted his ally Jack Straw," said lain Duncan-Smith, the Tory spokesman

oo social security.

Mr Hague's Shadow Cabinet told at a strategy meeting this week that they have been hurting Labour by claims that ministers seem to be spending too much on themselves and their partners. As a result, the Tories have tabled dozens of questions about ministerial expenditure oo their grace and favour flats and trips abroad with their spouses or partners

The meeting was also told that Labour still had a long lead in the polls. Mr Hague is coovening another strategy meeting next week to try to inflict

#### Tory MPs too white and male

Today's Tory MPs come from a narrower group in society than they did 20 years ago, research carried out by a grassroots Conservative group revealed.

The Tory Reform Group said the "modernisatioo" of selection process in 1980 led to a decline in the number of oew MPs educated in state schools and failed to raise the oumber of women MPs. The group wants "substantial reform to the system to end discrimination".

The TRG report said the selection procedure, which includes a course modelled on the British Army's officer selectioo course, itself lifted from the Nazi party method of selection, bad "belped to distance MPs from ordinary Conservative voters". It states: "We cannot go on saying that we understand the working classes because we employ them as our servants."

Selecting Conservative Party Candidates claims the Tories field too few womeo candidates, there are no MPs from ethnic minorities, there are too many political "hacks" and the class base of MPs is too narrow. In 1997, just 13 Tory women were returned to Parliament - two more than in 1964. The report described this position as "lam-

entable".

Leadership for the Nation:

### Blair pushes for elected mayors

Directly elected mayors could become powerful figures in town halls across the country, in spite of misgivings by councillors. Colin Brown says Tony Blair is backing the idea of elected local cabinets.

Tony Blair wants to see directly elected mayors in the main town and cities of Britain as a means of reviving interest in local government, and reasserting local powers over local services.

Whitehall sources last night denied reports that the Government was considering compelling reluctant councils to join the Blair revolution for local government by forcing them to have elected mayors. But it is clearly a stick that is being kept in reserve. "The emphasis is on a bot-

tom-up approach to local government, not a top-down move. There are no plans at present to compel councillors to innovate in this area and ministers consider it unlikely they will need to do so," said the source.

The drive to introduce directly elected mayors is part of the reforms to local government that will be outlined in a consultation paper in the next few

The Independent reported exclusively before Christmas that the local government minister, Hilary Armstrong, was promoting the idea of elected mayors with changes to the

voting system, possibly allowing voting on Sundays and in shop ping centres or supermarkets to: widen the appeal of local government democracy.

The plans coincide with a Bill in the House of Lords, which will give councils the power to experiment with elected mayors. The Bill has been introduced with the Government's backing by Lord Hunt of Tamworth, the cabinet secretary throughout the years of the last Labour government, from Heath to Thatcher.

Lord Hunt's Bill is expected to be given a fair wind in the Commons by the Government but the Tories are concernedabout the lack of accountability for directly elected mayors. with appointed cabinets. There could be as much resistance from Tories in the country as die-hard Labour councillors determined to hold on to their

Few councillors may be willing to give up powers to directly: elected mayors, and Mr Blair may bave to resort at a later stage to compulsion. All large towns will be expected to follow: the lead taken in London with the elected mayor for the cap-

For the time being, the Prime Minister is keen to keen local government in support of his proposed reforms. Some will be disappointed at the Government's decision oot te make radical changes to the husiness rate, which will continue to be controlled largely a national level with the introduction of some scope for local

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Reservoir dogged by controversy as rebuilding threatens Peak landscape

# 11/ENVIRONMENT NEWS

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Troubled water: Ladybower reservoir in the Peak District where the dam wall has to be raised, possibly using gritstone from Win Hill (background)

Photograph: Brian Harris

Plans to reinforce the Ladybower Dam, the largest earth dam in Britain, are causing consternation in the Peak District. Stephen Goodwin, Heritage

Severn Trent Water are anxious to make a start reinforcing the massive earth embankment of the Ladybower Dam, holding back 6,300 million gallons of water in the Derwent Valley west of Sheffield.

Correspondent, reports.

The dam is due for a statutory inspection in April when a local campaigner. the water company would exterests of safety remedial work has to be carried out.

The dry summer of 1995 accelerated problems and Severn Trent decided not to wait until ordered to do the work and work this year. The dam height will be raised by 3 metres and a 10m thick layer of crushed rock added to the vast embankment.

However there is concern about where the 400,000 tons jnh will be quarried and about

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Yorkshire Bridge where the works compound would be.

Severn Trent want to create a new quarry on the flank of Win Hill - a prominent part of the panoramic view across the 500-acre reservoir from the A57 Snake Pass road. The quarry is no company land, but would be a major scar in the National Park where there is a policy against new excavations.

"Win Hill or Win Hole?" ask the conservationists and some Ynrkshire Bridge residents who are opposing the scheme. "A feature of great natural beauty would be destroyed forever," said Anne Robinson,

If the dam has to he pect to be told that in the in- strengthened, Ms Robinson would prefer the rock to be quarried from the shoreline of the reservoir or for it to be hrought in by rail. This would require rehuilding an old track now used as a footpath hut has submitted proposals to the could, in the long term, allevi-National Park authority for ate some of the park's traffic

There is also unease about Severn Trent's haste. The park authority is due to consider the planning applications next month, hut conservationists want any decision deferred of gritstone needed for the £4m until after the statutory

### Prescott told to build more urban homes

A group of 69 Labour MPs yesterday fired a warning shot at John Prescott for allowing building in the green belt. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, reports that Tony Blair is facing a growing countryside alliance.

was yesterday urged to focus Soulding on "brownfield" sites ahead with releasing large tracts f countryside in the green belt

or housing. The Tory Opposition will xploit growing unrest in rural nstituencies - many now held Labour MPs - with a full ay's debate in the Commons n Tuesday.

Tory MPs say Labour has orged a countryside alliance and Ben Bradshaw, Exeter. gainst it on three fronts: mong the so-called "NIM-Ys" (Not In My Backyard) by reatening to allow building in green belt; among farmers ith the failure to lift the beef an; and the country sports aternity, with the backbench ill to han foxhunting. Peter uff, the Tory MP for Mid Vorcestershire, said: "Some in ne countryside feel that there a plot against them by the Sovernment. People are very

That anger will be demontrated with a mass rally in lyde Park on 1 March, which he Tories believe could dwarf he pro-foxhunting rally there ast year, and could attract quarer of a million people from the

countryside to the capital. from the May 1997 intake - was couched in diplomatic tan-guage, but it will be seen as a warning shot at John Prescott and his ministers at the Department of Environment over huilding in the green belt.

It was tabled by David Drew, the Labour MP for Stroud, and Paddy Tipping, the Labour MP for Sherwood, who have led hackheuch criticism of the threat to allow expansion of building in the green belt.

Mr Drew was one of the The Deputy Prime Minister cross-party group of MPs, including Tom King, the former Northern Ireland Secretary, round towns before going which held a meeting at the Commons this week to coordinate opposition.

Many of the other Labour MPs who signed the motion represent former Tory seats with rural areas which could be under threat, including Ivnr Caplin, the MP for Hove in East Sussex; Diana Organ, Forest of Dean; Vernon Coaker, Gedling;

While praising past Labour Governments for creating the green belt, their motion highlighted the importance of "making the best possible use of brownfield sites and existing buildings to meet housing demand", and called for regional planning conferences to be given more power in decisions on land for housing.

Mr Prescott has given assurances that the national ratio of housing in towns and countryside in plans inherited from the Tories will remain hroadly unchanged after his report to Parliament in the next few weeks.

But the review is expected to pave the way for 4.4 million new homes and his refusal to block green beit developments at Newcastle and Stevenage has The Commons motion by 69 set the countryside campaign-MPs - dominated by new MPs ers on course for a confrontation with the Government.

### **Bellamy fury over** green belt threat

A top wildlife campaigner yesterday condemned "the madness" of huilding millions of new homes in the green helt Professor David Beliamy, called for a halt to the Government-backed plans that have sparked anger among environmentalists.

In a keynote speech he said new homes should be built on derelict "brown" land in urban locations. He told the Green Futures conference at Halesowen in the West Midands: "The Government wants to provide 4 million new nomes in the next 20 years, with half of them in rural lo-

cations. They could all he built on the 60,000 hectares of vacant 'hrown' land in towns and cities, with plenty of room available for green spaces. It is madness to destroy the green belt environment."

He added: "The hrown sites are close to jobs, hospitals, shops and services. That is where most people want to live, not miles out in the countryside where cars are needed and water supplies barely sus-

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tain existing households." The demand for homes has been created by the rising divorce rate and people living



### Jordan at risk of becoming cockpit for proxy wars

is jordan becoming like Lebanon in the past, a place where other Middle East powers fight proxy wars? Last weekend in the capital, Amman, a gang cut the throats of a senior Iraqi diplomat, two important businessmen, and five others. Patrick Cockburn explains why Jordan is becoming a more dangerous place.

It was as if the killers wanted to advertise their savagery. They cut the throats of each of their eight victims and then stabbed them through the heart.

"The stabbing was carried out by professional murderers," says Doctor Moumim al Hadid, director of forensic rather than cut, and a knife medicine at the police department in Amman, after he and the killers "exchanged aclooked at evidence from the au-

There were other signs that this was not a crime carried out by ordinary criminals. The murderers showed great patience.

The forensic evidence proves that three hours passed the last as they waited for their victims to arrive. The last two to die, Hikmat al-Hajou, the Iraqi deputy amhassador to wife Jordan and his wife Laila, may have received a call on their mobile phone, luring them to the

house where they were killed.

Diotisios Lidaki, 57, his Greek girlfriend, was holding an iftar. the meal which breaks the fast at the end of the day in Ramadan. But before the guests could arrive four or five men burst in, killing Mr George's Egyptian bodyguard and an Egyptian friend.

The men, speaking Arabic

with an Iraqi accent, according to Ms Lidaki, who alone survived the evening, tied up and gagged their victims. Then they waited for Namir Ochi, another Iraqi businessman who lived in Lehanon and, like Sami George, with whom he often stayed, came from Kirkuk, in northern Iraq. He had the reputation of being comfortably off, but the wealthy member of his family was his London-based brother Nazmi, whose companies are worth some \$1.2 bn.

Ms Lidaki, who only lived because her throat was slashed missed her heart, said Mr Ochi cusations and the Iraqis said he owed them large sums of mon-

"Ochi refused their demands, so they stabbed him and attacked all those present,"

Finally, just before the murderers departed, Hikmat albetween their first murder and Hajou, the Iraqi deputy ambassador, arrived, possibly summoned by a phone-call, and was killed along with his

The crime, for which nobody has been arrested, sent shockwaves through Jordan. The professional ferocity of the It began in the evening last killings and the fact that Namir Saturday. Sami George, 63, an Ochi was reported to owe mon-



A pro-Saddam rally in Jordan during the Gulf war. King Hussein later broke with Iraq but not all his subjects backed him

Photograph: Rex Features

curity forces. In 1986 Nasser, anexecuted in Baghdad for allegedly offering a bribe, showunpopular with the regime.

Middle East powers feel free to pursue their enemies in Amman as they once did in Beirut, Last September Benjamin Neister, sent agents of Mossad, the Israeli foreign-intelligence service, to poison Khalid Meshal, ey in Baghdad, argues that the man only a mile from where King Hussein had no choice.

Jordan has always been one of the smaller players in power battles in the Middle East. Sandwiched between Iraq to the east and Israel to the west, Syria to the north and Saudi But the killings have wider Arabia to the south, it is weak-

implications. Suddenly other er than any of its neighbours. It was badly damaged by the Gulf War when it refused to join the anti-Iraq alliance. To return to favour in Washington it signed tanyahu, the Israeli Prime Min- a peace treaty with Israel in 1994 and broke with Iraq the following year when it gave refuge to General Hussein Kamel, the a leader of Hamas, the militant chief lieutenant of Saddam Islamic group, in a street in Am- Hussein who had fled Baghdad.

killers belonged to the Iraqi se- Sami George was killed. He needed American protection and money. He wanted to rebuild relations with the Gulf Arabs. And, to a degree, his strategy has worked. The US gives aid worth \$225m a year. But the treaty with Israel and the break with Iraq were never popular with ordinary Jordanians. Neither policy has paid the dividends expected.

In December Saddam Hussein executed four Jordanian students who were under arrest for smuggling £500 worth of goods. His motive was apparently a warning to Jordan not to interfere in Iraqi internal affairs. General Wafiq al-Sammarai, the former head of Iraqi

military intelligence, says the Iraqi leader decided to kill the students because his security had intercepted a message from the Iraqi opposition in Jordan to General Talib al-Sadoun, a senior Iraqi general, in Bagh-

Iraqi policy is becoming clear: cultivate Jordanian opinion but snub the King. Immediately after the killing of Sami George and the others in Amman President Saddam announced he was releasing over 50 Jordanian prisoners in Iraq. But he did so in a deliberately offensive manner. Ignoring repeatedly requests from King Hussein for their freedom he

promised their release instead to Leith Shbeilat, an important opposition figure.

So angered was the Jordan-

ian government at Mr Shbeilat's success, after King Hussein was rebuffed, that they did everything to prevent him from returning in triumph. Journalists covering his arrival were roughed up by the police. Relatives of the prisoners were told to go home.

Sami George and his friends may have been killed because of a business deal gone wrong, but the manner of their death

### Changing face of an old land

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was part of the Turkish Empire but after the Turkish defeat in the First World War the territory of Jordan became part of the short-lived Syrian kingdom of King Faisal I (later King of Iraq). In 1920 Faisal was defeated by

the French, the Syrian mandate was given to France and the Emirate of Transjordan was incorporated into Britain's mandate of Palestine. King Abdullah, Faisal's brother, was chosen to rule in 1921. In 1928 a treaty with Britain made Transjordan a constitutional monarchy, until 1946, when a second treaty created the Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan.

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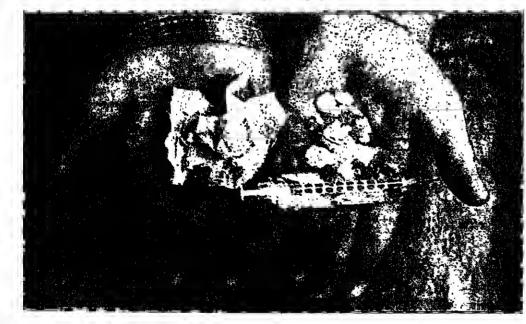
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Transfordan opposed the par tition of Palestine and joined the other Arab nations in fighting the new Israeli state in 1948. By the end of the war it occupied a section of West Bank designated by the UN for the Arabs. Its name was changed to Jordan in 1949, and Bank territory. Abdullah was assassinated in 1951. His son Talal reigned for a year but stepped down in favour of his son Hussein L

A split developed within Jordan over the Palestinian problem; the jordanian government claimed sole guardianship of the Palestinian Arabs, offering Jordanian nationality to any Palestinians in 1960; but this claim was disputed by the militant refugees, who established in 1964 the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Threats from these militants induced the King to accept the risk of war in 1967, although the fighting cost Jordan the West Bank.

lordan renounced its West Bank claims at a 1974 Arab summit when it signed the Rabat resolution, which declared the PLO sole legitimate representative of nounced that it was officially severing all legal and administrative may point to a new ferocity in ties to the West Bank and surthe way Iraq intends to deal with rendering its claim to the PLO.

TOMORROW IN THE SEVEN-SECTION



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ost natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

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A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can,

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And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us - any nough reason to pick up the phone. Call now. You'll find we're

The Samaritans

### Dirty crack brigade has a field day as Zippergate transfixes an entire nation

For a while it had seemed as if Washington had slipped for eternity into tedious obscurity, with neither news nor relevance to interest the rest of the country. Now, as David Usborne observes, the The profession of the following the control of the following the control of the following the control of the co whole nation - in restaurants, on talk-shows, on the Internet - can talk about nothing else. It's Watergate time again.

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Never mind the Superbowl tomorrow. Don't think of starting a discussion about Ted Kaczyinski, who is to plead guilty to his string of mail-bombing charges. He goes by the name of the Unabomber. But that epithet has morphed in recent hours and is being applied instead to Bill Clinton: President Unabanger.

Credit for that goes to Jay Leno, the television host and comic. And there are more. This is "Zippergate" and the potential for ribaldry is almost endless. "Looks like President Busy-Pants has been at it again,"

offered Craig Killborn on Comedy Central erage of the crisis. And these are busy peo-Thursday night. Ear-wig on any conversa-tion in the US today and the betting is the their primetime menus of comedies and sittopic will be the President and Monica Lewinsky. In the past 24 hours this correspondent has listened in on others talking in an plane, on a train and in a restaurant. And everyone, it seems, assumes the charges are true.

The swirl is inescapable. Television networks that spent entire budgets sending famous news-anchors to Cuba for the Pope have had to haul them back to steward covcoms for news and analysis.

While pundits repeated that these are allegations, not facts, private conversations are far less restrained. The twists and turns of what may have happened, what may be wrong with the President's mind, what he may have done exactly with Ms Lewinsky are surreal in their scope. Especially tantalising: a report that Ms Lewinsky has spoken of having a "particular type of sex" with

the President. What type could that be exactiv? Was it oral sex, as the President is alleged to have suggested to Paula Jones? Is it possible his denial of having had an "improper relationship" is somehow premised on a belief on his part that oral sex is not real sex and therefore does not

count as adultery? And what about the latest nngget on the Drudge Report, an Internet website that helped propel the scandal into the public sphere and which specialises in completely unproven filth? This is that Ms Lewinsky is in possession of an item of clothing with Mr Clinton's semen on it. Where will this end?

One Leno monologue began: "So this is Day Two of Jailbait-gate for President, or, as they're calling him now, the Una-banger. After five years of investigating and \$35m, Kenneth Starr has found the smoking gun, and it's apparently in President Clinton's pants." Only one thing is darkening the mood of the late-night script-writers: the prospect of a Gore presidency. Where would be the fun in that?

### White House struck dumb as crisis deepens

It may look as if the White House is gambling that keeping the President away from the cameras will make the Lewinsky scandal go away. But, as David Usborne in Washington wagers, the truth is quite the opposite. They know the crisis is only deepening and they are in a panic about how to confront it.

His presidency and place in history in jeopardy, Bill Clinton failed to come before the American voters yesterday to offer a fresh explanation about the sex claims that have crashed around him as his advisers in the White House desperately squabbled about his best course of action.

There was no sign, meanwhile, of any let-up in the explosive crisis that has grown out of allegations that the President had sexual relations with a White House intern, Monica Lewinsky, in 1995 when she was only 21, and that he may have committed perjury and attempted to suborn Ms Lewinsky to commit perjury.

With the atmosphere in the White House already balanced somewhere between political paralysis and outright panic, it found itself served with sweeping subpoenas yesterday by the special prosecu-

'Jones' team is now unearthing others Clinton may have had sex with'

tor, Kenneth Starr, who has been investigating alleged improprieties by the President since 1994.

Meanwhile, Washington positively revarberated with the possible prospect though probably still a distant one - of a presidential resignation or impeachment. One senior administration official was heard to observe of the charges: "If true, it will cost Clinton the presidency. At a minimum, it will be disruptive for at least a year and make it a lot harder to push through our policies."

Under intense pressure from his political advisors to offer a new and comprebensive denial of the allegations. Mr Clinton is now facing the deadline of his annual State of the Union address to Congress on Tuesday. It seems inconceivable that the address can be delayed as has been suggested in some quarters in Wash-

But while some in the White House argue that Mr Clinton's earlier attempts to dismiss the allegations in brief interviews on Wednesday failed and that he must try again with either a press conference or fresh

interviews before Tuesday's address, his legal advisors are pressing him to wait. Their concern, apparently, is that the White House still has not got its own facts straight in a way that would be convincing.

Mr Clinton for the first time discussed the crisis with his cahinet, ostensibly summoned to discuss the contents of the State of the Unioo speech. Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, said afterwards: "He started out by saying that the allegations are untrue and that we should stay focused on our jobs and that everything will be fine."

Yesterday was notable also by something else that did not happen: a deposition by Ms Lewinski to lawyers representing Paula Jones, whose own lawsuit against the President is to go to trial in May, was postponed by an Arkansas judge. There had been huge anticipation ahead of the deposition, first planned for yesterday, to see if Ms Lewinsky decides to take advantage of her Fifth Amendment right not to answer

At issue is the suspicioo that Ms Lewinski will feel obliged to contradict an earlier affidavit given to Ms Jones' team in which she denied having had sexual relations with Mr Clinton.

Tapes now in the possession of the special prosecutor Starr allegedly contain conversations between Ms Lewinsky and a friend and former colleague, Linda Tripp, in which Lewinski discusses having had such relations.

Ms Lewinsky, who faces possible criminal charges for perjury, reportedly said in her affidavit: "I have the utmost respect for the Presideot, who always behaved appropriately in my presence. I have never had a sexual relationship with the President."

Mr Clinton is believed similarly to have denied having had sex with Ms Lewinsky when he was asked about her during his own five-hour deposition to lawyers of Ms Jones last Saturday. It is that which may open him to perjury charges. Mr Starr is also pursuing suspicious that the President and his close friend, Vernon Jordan, may have leaned on Ms Lewinsky to lie in her own deposition.

The lawyer representing Ms Lewinsky lashed out at Mr Starr, saying that he was unethically targeting his client. He also suggested that Mr Starr was resisting giving Ms Lewinsky the protection of immunity from criminal charges if she comes forward to corroborate the allegations.

"She has been targeted. She is a target." attorney William Ginsburg said yesterday. In what could become an important issue in any trial, Mr Ginsburg also raised questions about the legality of Mr Starr's investigative tactics, in particular his decision to wire Ms Tripp for one more conversation she had with Lewinsky in a Washington area hotel a week ago.

Meanwhile, the President faces still worse peril from a team of investigators dispatched by the Jones team to try to unearth other women who may have been sexually involved with the President.

Jones' lawyers have reportedly served a subpoens on the widow of Larry Lawrence, the former United States amhassador to Switzerland who achieved posthumous notoriety when he was recently disinterred from the Arlington military cemetery after it was found he did not qualify as a military hero.



Muslim protesters burning an reffigy of President Clinton in Karachi yesterday. They were calling for a holy war to force Israel out of Jerusalem and the West Bank Photograph: Aamir Qureshi/AFP

#### Now there's an idea: let's start a war

The film was ooe of the most popular of this last Christmas season: a comedy starring Dustin Hoffman and Robert De Niro about a White House under siege because of leaks surfacing in the nation's newspapers about alleged improprieties committed by the President Called Wag the Dog, it was pretty funny.

Funny in the cinemas, but oow a little more than that. While the film retained an edge of reality, the plot stretched the bounds of plausibility, Or so we thought. Anyone who has seen Wag the Dog can only ponder the uncanny parallels between its fiction and the less-than-comedic reality now before us.

The movie, which will be hitting British screens shortly, rests on one joke. The President has been caught having sex with a teenage girl in the Oval Office and the White House turns to trouble-shooter De Niro to fix things. This is his wheeze; manufacture a phooy war to distract media attention.

The war, De Niro decides, will be against Albania. It is created from nothing with the help of a Hollywood director, Hoffman, who directs fabricated scenes from burning Balkan villages actually shot in a studio in Burbank. The footage is fed to the television networks who obligingly fall for

Cut to reality. So far there have been oo bulletins about Albania from the White House. But President Clinton, as it bappens, does have a conflict on the stocks, ready to roll. That, of course, would be the bombing of Iraq. kest assured, if Childoo strikes frac the cry will go out: he is doing a De Niro, trying to deflect attention from shenanigans that allegedy occurred if not in the Oval Office then just outside it.

According to Simon Halls, a publicist for the film Wag the Dog: "Tve got four pages of calls wanting some kind of comment on life imitating art." And

David Usborne

#### No way out as spectre looms over Union address

pens along).

hig deal. The President, reads Section Three of Article Two of the Constitution, "shall from time to time give to the Congress information of the state: of the Union." What would Bill Clinton give for the latitude open to the Founding Fathers?

In those days, presidents could, and did, send a written men and Senators and members message to Capitol Hill, without appearing. Not at first was it an annual event. Today, the State of the Union, normally delivered on the final Tuesday of January, is the equivalent of the

When America began, it was no hroadcast live on the same ma-mities are hriefly forgotten. ior networks which no longer deign to carry mere presidential news conferences (unless of course a Monica Lewinsky hap-

> At nine o'clock, the President arrives at the House of Representatives, packed with Cabinet members, Congressof the diplomatic corps, Behind him on the rostrum sit the Vice-President and the Speaker, who formally introduces the President.

"The President of the Unit-State Opening of Parliament. It ed States," bellows the House takes place in the evening. Surgeant at Arms. Ancient enIn normal times, Mr Clinton

would make his way slowly down the aisle into the pit of the chamber, grinning, glad-handing and exchanging greetings with Democrats and Republi-

cans alike. But this year? For a President enmeshed in the worst scandal of his career, his speech threatens to be excruciating. Plans and policy, hudget surpluses, Saddam Hussein? Forget it. Mr Clinton will be on the rostrum. But peering over his shoulder will be the spectre of Monica Lewinsky.

--- Rupert Cornwell

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### Vice President stays loyal, but could soon find himself promoted

sky scandal envelops his President? His task must be to show loyalty to his senior partner in White House. But at the same time, he must know this: people are gossiping already about Gore presidency. For the first 36 hours after

the storm first broke in Wednesday morning's newspapers, the Vice President offered no response. Indeed, on that same day, he stuck to his schedule and appeared at an event to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Roe v Wade

Consider, in all of this, the speech, in characteristic woodplight of one Al Gore. How en fashion, without so much as does he behave as the Lewin- a nod to the tempest outside. He cannot have avoided

bearing the titters in the audience, however, on his introduction to the podium . "He has taken the time today, out of an enormously busy schedule," the speaker began. "I mean Arafai's in town, Netanyahu ... and a few other things.

It is not as if Mr Gore has not had sufficient con-the-joh training. Indeed, his crash course came before the 1992 election, when the Clinton-Gore campaign nearly became derailed by Gennifer Flowers' Supreme Court decision on adultery allegations. Since then, abortion. He delivered his he has perfected the art of loy-

alty-while-lying-low through Whitewater, Vince Foster, Weh Hubbel, Paula Jones. There has been almost no let-up.

Finally, in a pre-arranged interview with a group of newspaper columnists, the fruit of which was published yesterday. the Vice President did address the crisis. And, so far, he is standing by his man. Indeed, he has been more or less alone in Washington voluntarily to break cover on Clinton's behalf.

"The President has denied the charges, and I believe it," Mr Gore told the scribes gathered in his White House office. "He has said he will co-operate fully with the independent counsel. And you will see that

that is exactly what he does". Poignantly, Mr Gore added: Beyond that, he is not only the President of the country, he is my friend". Mr Clinton, he said, has been able to "maintain

American people". Otherwise, Mr Gore is conspicuously absent from the spotlight. Aides and friends are also staying quiet, declining to answer media inquiries. And all of this while lawmakers in Congress, Republicans certainly and even some Democrats, are openly talking about a future

with President Al Gore and First Lady Tipper.

# Apartheid leader makes the most of his day in court

After months of defying the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, PW Botha, former South African president, found himself in court yesterday. Mary Braid watched in vain for a glimmer

of repentance.

years seemed to melt away. The razor wire was rolled out and black protesters were monitored by helicopters buzzing overhead.

of another time and place. The of anartheid during some of its didactic, inflexible Botha. hloodiest years, seemed to have

hold on the south-east coast, the since he was elbowed from

Charged with contempt for ignoring subpoenas to attend a hearing of the TRC, the body charged with laying bare the The extras then were relics atrocities of the past, the old man emerged from his BMW same applied to the star of the with Reinette Naude, his new fishow. PW Botha, 82, custodian ancée, half his age; the same old

next month.

The magistrate was black. Mr Botha insisted he did not mind; had he not once played with little hlack boys? But that he should judge the old oppressor has its ironies and was evidence at least of South Africa's profound change.

But change seemed to have passed Mr Botha by. Expected tion without Truth". "He nev- him from the TRC "witchhunt" The hearing was over quick- to keep his head down and his er thought it would come to - who had joined him in the

dent surprised with a rare 40- he cannot ignore the TRC. He minute political speech in which he defended apartheid as mere "good neighbourliness". When sniggers spread across the court

Outside the court, the banapartheid's victims and warned - including three former genthere could be "No reconcilia-

he demanded: "Who laughed?"

has answers and we want them."

But inside it was vintage rhetoric - Mr Botha arguing with reporters that he tried to save South Africa from the "Communist onslaught" and thanking ners listed the names of former soldiers and policemen erals who turned up to protect

Lehanon.

"Is that the same fatherland as yesterday. Only a tiny group of mine?" said a young black ANC supporter at the back.

mation. He had nothing to people were under attack. The awakening and disaster loomed if the TRC continued to pursue

In Georg, an Afrikaner strong- been kept on ice for the decade by, postponed for plea until mouth shut, the former presi- this," said one protester. "But fight. "I tried to protect our fa- him. The Afrikaner tiger must hold on the south-east coast, the since he was allowed for plea until mouth shut, the former presi- this," said one protester. "But fight. "I tried to protect our fa- him. The Afrikaner tiger must have been otherwise engaged odds and sods showed.

While South Africa argued Mr Botha said the TRC yesterday about the merits of wanted humiliation not infor- pursuing the ex-president-the case could well extend beyond apologise for. He said he and his the life of the TRC - one thing was certain. Mr Botha loved it Afrikaner tiger he warned was yesterday; a whiff of the bad old days seemed to put the spring back in the old dictator's step.

#### French love and hate the mobile

The French were slow to catch on to the global craze for the mobile telephone. But they are catching up rapidly - and loudly. So much so, John Lichfield writes from Paris, that a majority of French people want them banned in public places.

The time is early evening, the scene is a TGV leaving Lyons for Paris. A prosperous-looking business man calls his wife on his mobile phone. "Sorry, chérie," he announces to the whole carriage. "The meeting is running late. I have to stay in Lyons tonight."

A minute later he dials a different number. "Chérie?" he says, equally loudly. "Everything is fixed. My wife thinks I am in Lyons. I will meet you tonight at (such and such a restaurant)....

The anecdote, recounted recently in a French magazine, proves that the mobile phone is adaptable to any culture. For a long time, it seemed, that France would resist the global temptation to be permanently in touch with the rest of the world. But the country is now falling for the mobile in a big way: there were 862,000 new subscriptions last month alone, many of them Christmas presents. The phone operating companies forecast that the number of users will double by the end of this year to 10,000,000.

Atrocity stories abound. One of the most terrifying sights in Paris is to see cars hurtling into the automotive jacuzzi at the Etoile while their drivers chat on the phone. A university professor complained recently that he had been interrupted 37 times by mobile beeps during an hour-long lecture. Charles Aznavour broke off in mid-song at a concert at the Olympia in November to plead with a member of the audience to answer his phone.

A number of fashionable Parisian restaurants, notably the Brasserie Lipp at St Germain des Prés, have banned mobiles completely. At another restaurant, the Floralie, near the Bourse, the proprietor has resorted to blowing a whistle when the



Trunk call: A man on his phone beneath an underwear poster at the International Lingerie Show in Paris Photograph: AP

Chez Bibi, also close to the Bourse, the proprietor received a call from a man sitting at one of his tables, complaining that he was still waiting for his food.

An opinion poll for the newspaper Le Parisien has revealed that a majority of French people would like to see a ban on the use of mobile phones in public places, similar to the existing law restricting smoking. Of those polled, 87 per cent wantsound of the beeping, and the disemboded the mobile to be banned in theatres and

cinemas, 81 per cent in restaurants, 74 per—struggling against the French worship of cent at sporting events, 66 per cent in pub-

lic transport and 64 per cent in cars. Curiously, the belated conversion of the French to the mobile phone - there are still only half as many in circulation as in Britain, a quarter of the density in the Scandinavian countries - is a case of history repeating itself. Until the early 1980s, France had the lowest proportion of fixed phones of any developed country. This was a case of the French love of conversation

privacy. Only 75 per cent of households had a phone in 1983; the figure has now risen to 94 per cent.

The resistance to the mobile has been dissolved more rapidly, partly because of a price-war between operators which has brought the cost crashing down. Early legislation to curb the mobile seems unlikely. If France follows the pattern of other countries, behaviour should improve once the first flush of novelty wears away.

#### Army keeps peace in Zimbabwe

their vigil in the rock-strewn streets of Harare yesterday and some schools and factories remained shut after violent food riots earlier this week.

Police, who reported on Thursday that three people had

Zimbabwean troops maintained died in the protests on Monday and Tuesday, said six people had been killed.

Some 2,275 people, including the a man alleged to have organised this week's protests, have been arrested.

- Reuters, Harare

### The grisly currency traded between Israel and its enemies

Lebanon's body bazaar - the constant bargaining between guerrillas and the Israeli army for the exchange of each other's corpses - has reached a gruesome stage. As our Middle East Correspondent reports from Tyre, the Israelis - anxious to retrieve the remains of a soldier killed in an ambush last year – are leaving the bodies of dead guerrillas unburied in the no-man's land of southern

Amid the rocks of the Wadi Selouki lie three dead men. Rajeh Aidi, Samer Balluli and Saleh al-Jadza have been there since 24 October, the day when their Islamic Jihad guerrilla operation against Israeli occupation troops went fatally wrong. All three - Aidi was Lebanese, the other two Palestinian were shot dead in a gun battle and within hours, the United Nations and the International Red Cross asked the Israelis for permission to retrieve the bodies for bur-

Despite repeated requests, the UN says it never even received a reply. The Red Cross confirms it was refused permission to collect the corpses for "security" reasons. A month later, six more Shia guerrillas two from Hizbollah and four from Amal - were killed by the Israelis near Tair Hafa. Their bodies, too, were allowed to lie unburied for days, prey to the wild boars and dogs that move in packs through the ravines of southern Lebanon.

all the UIN - has much doubt about lies behind this grisly new practice. On 5 September last year, a Lebanese doubleagent lured Israeli troops into a Hizbollah ambush in which 12 Israeli soldiers were killed. The remains of one of them -a head and some limbs - were left at the scene and later displayed by the Hizbollah. Israel demanded their return and the Hizbollah agreed - but only if Israel freed a series of important Lebanese Shia prisoners held inside Israel and at the Khiam prison in the Israeli occupation zone where torture is regularly practised.

Israel refused the deal. And from then on, guerrillas who fell in no-man's land were left to rot. At Tair Hafa, Israeli troops did - much later in November - remove the six corpses, but only after they had been prey to wild animals. Israel already has a cemetery packed with more than 300 Palestinian and Hizbollah corpses, each neatly buried and identified in preparation for future body exchanges between Israel and its enemies. When the son of Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, the Hizboliah leader, was killed in an am-

bush later in September last year, an exception was made to Israel's rule and his body was recovered, filmed on a mortuary slab and then buried along with the other guerrillas in the cemetery at Gadot on the occupied Golan Heights. Recent reports, however, say that - fearing the body might be stolen by Hizbollah sympathisers - the Israelis have reburied it at a secret location.

For his part, Sayed Nasrallah, who insisted that he be sent congratulations rather than condolences on the death of his guerrilla son, announced that he was not interested in the return of his son's body. The youth had gone to Paradise, he said, so his earthly remains meant nothing. This was bad news for the Israelis who had previously bargained for their own dead soldiers with the bodies of their enemies. With the Hizbollah wanting live prisoners rather than dead guerrillas in exchange for Israel's missing soldiers, the equation had been changed.

In reality, the precedent had been set last summer when the head of the German intelligence service arranged for the remains of two dead Israelis to be exchanged for 112 Hizbollah bodies and 45 guerrilla prisoners; many of the latter had spent years with-

#### BY ROBERT FISK

out trial in Khiam prison. To add further pressure for the return of their soldier killed in last September's ambush, the Israelis ended all International Red Cross visits to Khiam and banned further family visits to the No one in southern Lebanon - least of, jail - where some of the inmates have spent

As if to make the grim soukh of death even grimmer, Lebanese guerrillas are themselves believed to maintain a secret cemetery of their enemy dead. There is a widespread belief in Lebanon that the bodies of three Israeli soldiers who disappeared during a tank battle in the Bekaa Valley may be buried here. And somewhere in the Bekaa lies the grave of British freelance iournalist Alec Collet - on assignment for the UN - who was taken hostage on the outskirts of Beirut in 1985; his kidnappers later released a video which showed what appeared to be his corpse hanging from a

4.5

Although it has never been reported, the UN made two attempts to recover Collet's body in 1995. At the first site, in a field near the village of Mazraa al-Foukhar, three UN officials dug for the grave; they found bones - but they were later identified as those of a goat. Lebanon, it seems, keeps its secrets well: somewhere in this tiny country also lie the graves of some 22,000 Lebanese civil war kidnap victims, not one of whom has



Written details on request. http://www.ga.co.ak/gadhest

### Indonesia budget fails to halt slide

the face of economic meltdown, as a new budget announced yesterday failed to stop - or even to slow - the downward slide of its curren-

In Jakarta, the rupiah fell to 13,500 to the US dollar. down from 12,000 the previous afternoon, the fourth day donesian economy. in succession on which it has sunk to an a record low.

Indonesian money has lost close to nine-tenths of its value in six months, placing an unbearable burden on companies which have debts in foreign currencies.

Many independent analysts believe that most Indonesian companies, unable seem to have completely lost to match their rising loan re- confidence in President payments, are technically bankrupt.

The government's inability to influence the situation was emphasised when the announcement of a new budget did nothing to calm the currency markets.

A fortnight ago President Subarto provoked derision

among international investors

The Indonesian government with an original budget which continued to flail helplessly in predicted economic growth as high as 4 per cent, inflation as low as 9 per cent and an exchange rate of 4,000 rupiah to the dollar. Those targets were revised

> under pressure from the International Monetary Fund, which has promised \$43hn (£27bn) to bail out the In-

The finance minister, Marie Muhammad, predicted zero economic growth in the financial year for 1998 to 1999, an inflation rate of 20 per cent and an average rupiah rate of 5,000 to the dollar, all figures which have

been approved by the IMF. The currency markets Suharto's regime, and a series of hopeful economic measures have failed to remedy the crisis. There was another protest in Jakarta by a group of demonstrators calling for President Suharto to reverse his decision to begin a seventh term in office in March.

- Richard Lloyd Parry,



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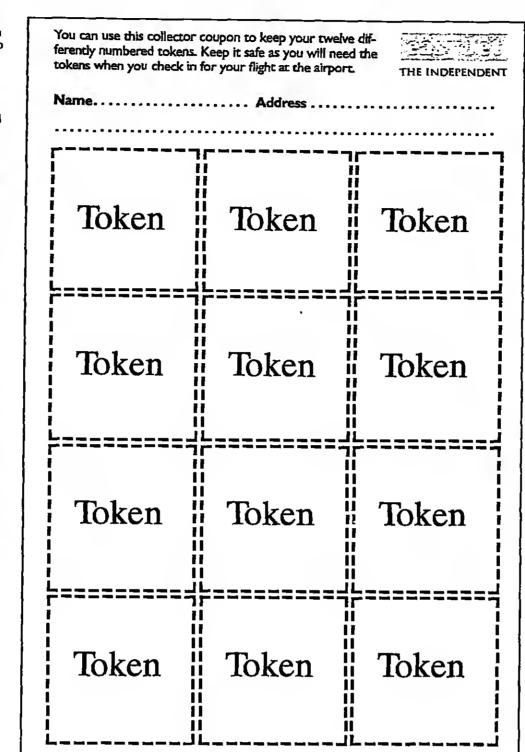
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If offer fares are not available at a particular time, a normal priced seat can be bought in conjunction with an offer seat.

There are no off-peak sears available on popular flights such as bank

Here's more specific advice for more popular destinations Barcelona: There are no off-peak flights in July or August.

July and August are especially popular.

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#### A WEEK IN THE **ARTS** DAVID LISTER

It takes something pretty extraordinary to have one coming out in sympathy for the Royal Opera House. But then Gerald Kaufman's performance at the Culture Select Committee on Wednesday was pretty extraordinary. I've watched this Committee through most of its life, and it has achievements to its credit. Sadly, now it is in danger of overreaching itself. Certainly its chairman is.

In Mr Kaufman the Committee has a cultured chairman with a wide experience of the arts. I besitate to use the old joke, "I know this because be told me so himself," but it's true that Kaufman misses few opportunities to drop the name of an opera or two, a film or three, or a CD that he bought in some American town for half the price it costs in the UK. The delicious phrase. "When I was in Hollywood" that he would use when quizzing film industry executives seemed to give a tantalising hint of a previous life in movies. In fact, it simply referred to a few days' fact-finding trip. Never mind. He chairs the Committee with elan and perspicacity; his breadth of artistic knowledge lends the committee respect and influence; and its original report on the Royal Opera House caused heads to roll and the Government finally to get a grip.

This week he returned rather eagerly to the fray, but now the backbench politician has begun to sound worryingly like an artistic director manqué. Kaufman said there was a case for curtailing or cancelling



Kaufman: artistic director manqué

the Royal Opera's current season after the shocking reviews for the new Barber of Seville and Marriage of Figuro. He even read out part of one stinker that Figuro had received.

This is dangerous stuff, both aesthetically and politically. As it happens, the Barber also got some very good reviews. But even if both productions had been roundly slated, audiences at both, perhaps lackmg Mr Kaufman's record collection, thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The critics are an important element in the reaction to a production, but they are not the sole element, and no company should allow their views to dictate its policy. Far less should any arts company let the fear of a tongue-lashing in the Commons dictate its artistic policy. The potential for experimentation simply to disappear if companies have to anticipate a public select committee rebuke is deeply worrying. The Committee's remit is to investigate and protest about how public money is being spent, not to call for closure on the basis of selective reviews.

As someone with a rich historical perspective on the arts, Kaufman must know that critics can get it wrong. And not only in opera. I can recall a film critic slating Four Weddings and a Funeral, a movie that actually did rather well around the globe. The name of that maverick reviewer? Gerald Kaufman.



idolaters of modernism, John Tavene is back and he's got сотралу

Photograph: Rui Xavier

### Still having a whale of a time 30 years on

On 24 January 1968, the London Sinfonietta burst fully formed from the belly of 'The Whale', when a 24-year-old David Atherton conducted the world premiere of an anarchic new 'cantata' soon to be recorded by The Beatles' Apple label, complete with guest appearance by Ringo Starr (on loud-hailer) by a 23-year-old John Tavener, Tonight, 30 years and 119 world premieres later, the Sinfonietta reprises that pioneering piece by a composer whose closing hymn for Princess Diana's funeral service has now made him a household name the world over. Here, Makolm Hayes talks to Tavener and others who played a part in that

NICHOLAS SNOWMAN First general manager. Chief executive of the SBC since 1986 The seeds of that first night were sown early, although none of us knew it at the time. I'd been at

historic first night in 1968.

school with Tavener, and had met JOHN CONSTABLE a lot of the players when we were students together at Cambridge.

David Atherton was there too. "Why did the idea take off as it did? It was all instinctive. Looking back, I think two things were crucial. First, there was a real need for a specialised 20thcentury ensemble in London at that time, It's hard to remember today, when there are so many more of them, bow much that gap needed filling. Also, it can't be over-emphasised how much David brought to the Sinfonietta. It was really his talent that made the difference."

#### DAVID ATHERTON

First artistic director/conductor "For me, it goes back to when I was a little kid in Blackpool, and I used to listen to the Thursdayevening Invitation Concerts of 20th-century music on what was then the BBC Third Programme. I just knew that this was something I wanted to be part of.

"In those early days there

wasn't much else of that kind

going on. In our first concert, besides The Whale, we did Henze's cantata Apollo et Hyazinthus and Strauss's Second Sonatina for wind instruments. Tve always been keen to do programmes like that, where new works can be beard in the context of more familiar ones. Later managements thought differently, and that was one reason why I moved on. But every orcbestra goes through different phases in its life. That's come back regularly to work your own child; it's difficult

Principal pianist since 1968 "The main thing I remember from the first performance of The Whale was holding the sustain- ensemble of 14 or 15 players, ing pedal down, while Raimund Herincx [baritone] shouted into the inside of the piano to get the echo effect. But where David was so clever was that he'd realised what a good piece The Whale really was. It was full of the sort of avant-garde devices which usually have people muttering about 'silly modern music'. But

schools of composers. "You can sum up what we're about in one word. Standards."

Vyner's time as general man-

ager was when our commis-

sioning policy came into its

own. We toured as a chamber

with single strings, and this for-

mat was a huge influence on the

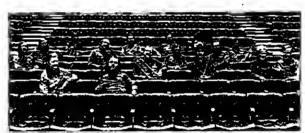
way composers wrote. Today, it's

a time for retrenchment - in the

best sense. There's much more

cross-fertilisation than there

used to be between different



case, it worked." SEBASTIAN BELL

## Principal flautist since 1968

the audience realised that, in this

"They asked me to do The Whale, but I couldn't - I was on tour. I started with the second concert, when we did Schoenberg's Pierrot Lunaire. Since then I must have played more Sinfonietta concerts than anyone else.

"I think there have been three quite clear phases in how we've evolved. First, it was a case of hringing full professionfair enough, and I've always alism to bear on 20th-century the top of the QEH, back across with the Sinfonietta. It's like early days: he was ruthless if a the roof, and down to the backplayer wasn't up to the level he seeing it growing away from you, demanded. Heads rolled like but you know you have to let it." pineapples. Then Michael demanded. Heads rolled like

#### ANDREW ROSNER First orchestral manager, now

narmer in Allied Artists

"I remember the first night like it was vesterday. We'd been able to hire the players for not much money by promising to pay them on the same night. The string players weren't in Strauss's Wind Sonatina, so of course they were going bome after The Whale. I'd been co-onted as one of the voices which shout through loud-hailers from different parts of the hall. I then had to get from a box right at music. David set the tone in the a really quite dangerous part of stage area to pay the players. I just made it in time.

"In those early days we used

tage industry from this little house in Temple Fortune -David Atherton, Nick Snowman, Tony Pay and myself. We just drew up plans for our second season, took them to the Arts Council, and said, 'Look at what we're doing: how can you afford not to support us?""

#### **CLIVE GILLINSON**

Cellist in first concert, Managing director of the LSO since 1984 "I was still a student at the Royal Academy at the time. I don't remember the performance of The Whale all that well, but I do remember the stir it caused. You can't over-emphasise how innovatory the Sinfonietta's agenda was at the time. What they were doing was new and utterfy different and really challenging.

"I think what truly counted was that the Sinfonietta man- and purity. But in England at agement team knew how to take that success forward. It's all about people. You can have any theory you like, but it comes down to the individuals involved. In some ways the circumstances of running an orchestra are different now compared to then. But those people would have made things happen in any time.

"In the LSO we've found that audiences are now much more willing to experience new works than they were. The Sinfonietta has been one of the key elements in that change of

#### **ANTHONY PAY**

Principal clarinettist until 1984 "One of the things I had to do in The Whale was start up the pre-recorded tape that accompanied Alvar Lidell reading the entry on whales from the Collins

to run the Sinfonietta as a cot- Encyclopaedia. I pressed the switch, and out came this horrible buzzing noise. David looked as if he could murder someone. Fortunately I saw that a jackping had been pulled out, probably by the flutes moving their chairs. I put it back in, and the noise stopped. Some of the reviewers thought that the buzzing noise was a surprisingly good effect."

#### JOHN TAVENER

Composer of 'The Whale'. His new opera "The Toll Houses" will be premiered by the Royal Opera în October

When I started out as a composer, I wasn't happy with the dominance of what I called 'the European intellectual kitchen-house'. I'm not against serial music as such: Stravinsky's late works, for instance, have for me the most wonderful strength the time it was all terribly pofaced. The Whale was partly a reaction against this idolatry of modernism - the idea that, if you were a composer, you had to write that kind of music. I enjoyed sending all that up a bit.

"I remember being knocked back by the amount of publicity it had. I didn't like this much. For some time afterwards I knew what I'd done, but I wasn't sure where I was going. Today, I can relate more clearly to other works of mine from that period: Celtic Requiem, and my Chamber Concerto. But I feel that The Whale is still a valid statement. It isn't my favourite among my early pieces. But I see its point."

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London Sinfonietta 30th Birthday Gala, including 'The Whale', 7.45pm tonight, QEH, SBC, London SE1 (0171-960 4242)



#### THE WEEK ON RADIO ROBERT HANKS

A friend of mine once flirted with anarchism, but stopped going to meetings because, he said, they never got down to discussing anything: the whole evening got taken up with people apologising to each other and insisting that they didn't want to impose an agenda on anybody. I don't know if anarchist meetings really are like that - going by the anarchists assembled on Freedom Radio (Radio 3, Sunday), it seems unlikely, since they were all too aware of the potential for caricature and concerned with promoting direct action. But it is certainly true that anarchism is too floppy and diffuse to be reduced to rigid structures, and this didn't make life easy for Christopher Cook as he roamed around Britain and the US talking to contemporary anarchists. Cook and his producer, Mark Burman,

had found an impressive set of interviewees, many of them dredged up using the Internet, illustrating the huge variety and range of anarchist activities, from tree-hugging to running radio stations, from Moscow to San Francisco.

The common thread was a distrust of the state and its evil twin, the corporation: what the modern anarchist wants is not life without regulation, but life on a smaller scale political power concentrated at a local level. Much of what they said sounded not simply attractive, but downright incontrovertible. After all, who doesn't think the Millennium Dome is a white elephant? But, hey, it's the anarchists who went out there and climbed up the cranes to try and keep it from bappening.

In the end, though, Freedom Radio made hreathe a sigh of relief.

for frustratingly confusing and inconclusive listening. With so much to cover, and with huge gaps in the account presented of the anarchist tradition, it became hard at times to see what put these people in the same programme.

It did, however, raise the question of why anarchist radio has flourished in America but not in Britain. (Anybody who knows different. please write.) Mark Burman's theory is that, apart from strict enforcement of broadcast licensing laws, the BBC has killed the need for it by providing enough intelligent political analysis and a wide enough range of views to take the lid off the people's simmering rage. That sounds plausible; maybe we should add that the BBC, big, ogreish corporation that it is, bas given house-room to plenty of mavericks over the years: there's space for them to slosh around in Broadcasting House.

This week, though, the dearth of mavericks - in fact, of anything very interesting has rather got me down. Maybe this is just Seasonal Affective Disorder, and it will all look rosier when the clocks go back. Even in high summer, though, it would be hard to fight the sheer tedium of Watch Out for the Jellyfish (Radio 4, Tuesday), in which Michael Portillo visited his mother's home-town of Kirkealdy to show us round the scenes of boyhood holidays and demonstrate his utter lack of a sense of humour. Few programmes have lived up to their titles so completely, except that a jellyfisb can sting. If this was the start of Michael Portillo's attempt to win his way back into public favour, William Hague can





6pm Wed/Thur, l0am - 7pm Frl/Sat, 10am - 4.30pm Sun



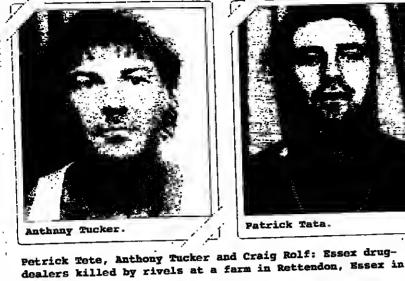
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> a stash of cocaine. rion, ponies for the children.

carry on the "family business".





Michael Steale.

Raquels Discn, in Beslidon,

that killed her

where Leah Betts brught the Ecstasy

BY KIM SENGUPTA

and Michael Steele: drug rivals of the three

Convicted of their murder on Tuesday and given life sentences.



The Essex connection







The Old Bailey trial this week of the men who murdered three drug dealers in Essex gave a rare glimpse into a violent and vengeful underworld on the edges of the capital - "the **Home Counties** connection".

In the leafy commuter towns of Essex and Kent, men step out of the front doors in the Acacia Avenues to go to work. But the briefcases they carry can contain, instead of office papers and a packed lunch, a pistol and

The underworld is no longer confined to the urban squalor of the inner cities. Successful gangsters have gentrified and become upwardly mobile, leaving their council flats for the Home Counties, and their working-class lifestyles for the trappings of success - des res, Rolls Royces and Range Rovers, a boat in the local ma-

The patterns of the migration have been to counties adjacent to various parts of London: East End villains moved out to Essex, those south of the river to Kent, the gangs around Islington to Herts and Bucks, and the ones from Shepberd Bush and Kilhurn to Middiesex. The sons of these villains

South Londoner Kenny Noye, Brinks Mat money launderer and killer of a policeman. lived in some splendour at his mansion in West Kingsdowne in Kent until he disappeared following a fatal roadside stabhing; Roy Garner, police supergrass from the Tottenham area ended up with luxury houses and stud farms in Hertfordshire before being convicted of cocaine trafficking. And Charlie Kray had long left behind Vallance Road in east London, where he grew up with the twins Ronnie and Reg-

gie, when he was arrested last year for a £39m cocaine trafficking plot. Unusually for one of the East End criminal aristocracy, he had moved to Sanderstead, Surrey, where he lived with the daughter of a headmaster.

Weepons similar to those used by the killers

> Criminologists maintain the arrival of such "quality villains" in the Home Counties brought with it a culture of crime and corruption which embraced local gangs. At the same time came the explosion in the importation of drugs and the monev that came with it. Essex and Kent, in particular, became vitally important as routes for narcotics from the Continent to London and other major cities.

his two companions first. After the shooting Steele said "they won't fuck with us The murder of the three again". He added he felt like

one third of the drugs haul.

ened to shoot Steele after mak-

ing him beg on his knees. His

intended victim got to him and

plied to Tate and his accomapparent drugs overdose in plices had been of poor qualti-November 1994, But, Tate told y and Steele agreed to take his mother, Whitaker had been back the cannabis and return a murdered by Tucker and Rolfe. deposit of £70,000. The mon-They had injected him in the ey was paid, but Tate denied regroin with a paralysing drug, ofceiving it and failed to return ten used on horses, known as Special K, then, powerless but Tate, an extremely violent conscious and pleading for mainline drug user, had threatmercy. Whitaker was killed

with an injection of lignocaine. The night before his death Tate himselt had badly beaten up the manager of a pizza shop over an imaginary slight. He had phoned the shop and demanded a specially made piz-

Lee Vella and had failed to pay. Nunn managed to escape from Vella's flat during the attack by throwing himself out of a window. Vella and his accomplices were convicted at their trial, and in July 1995 Vella was sentenced to 17 years in jail. Vella, who bought ecstasy

from Dutch dealers, was susoccled of the torture of other victims who had been too scared to make complaints. One man had his head shaved, and the back of his arms hurnt by a hot iron, another was given a "Glasgow smile" on both sides of his face with a Stanley knife, and another was anally raped with a broom handle. He was also suspected of being behind the shooting of a man, who



Moved: Kenny Noye (left), who killed a policeman, Charlie Kray and supergrass Roy Garner all apted far country living

men at Rettendon, in Essex was over drugs. The victims. Pat Tate, Tony Tucker and Craig Rolfe were dealers who supplied drugs through nightclubs and pubs in Essex and east London. It is one of their gang, it is believed, who supplied the ecstasy tablet which led to the death of policeman's daughter Leah Betts.

The victims had been been in dispute with the men who killed them, Micky Steele and Jack Whomes, over a cannabis shipment. The court which passed three life sentences on the men, with a recommended minimum of 15 years, had heard that a consignment of cannabis which Steele had sup-

"the angel of death". As Steele and fellow killer Whomes walked off after the shooting to be picked up by an accomplice. Darren Nicholls, they passed a sign saving: "The use of guns or any activity which disturbs penple or wildlife are not allowed on this land. Enjoy your visit".

The violence of the triple execution and its apparent professionalism appeared shocking. especially in the context of the village setting. But police say extreme violence had become endemic in parts of the county over the years. Tucker and Rolfe were themselves suspected of a particularly brutal murder, Kevin Whitaker, a 28year-old drug courier died of an

za with four different toppings on each quarter. The manager. 21-year-old Roger Ryall had said this was not possible. Within minutes Tate had arrived at the shop, battered Ryall and then smashed his head into a glass plate on the sink. Like oth-

would be wise not to press Drug dealer Reggie Nunn tox chas painful memories of the extreme violence of the Essex underworld. His face was mutilated with a narrow-hladed fencing sword, an epec, over another drugs dispute, the selfing of a thousand tabs of cestasy. He nwed £7,000 to trofficker Jason

ers crossed by Tate and his

friends, Mr Ryall thought it

spent hours on a life-support machine and refused to give any information to the police.

In Kent, boodegging of alcohol and eigarettes has been added to drugs as a source of underworld violence. In just one month. September last year, Dover had four shootings, a series of acid and machete attacks, and dozens of beatings. The reason behind this, say police and customs officials, is quite simple, organised gangs are fighting for control of a trade which is now estimated to be worth Clbn a year. Smaller gangs are having to pov rents to bigger ones for the privilege of

smuggling the contrahand. The gangs are not averse to

taking on the authorities by force to protect their merchandise. Towards the end of last year police and customs officers raided a hotel and discovered £70,000 worth of alcohol and eigarettes. The smugglers fled, only to come back with accomplices to try and storm the huilding and seize back the haul. They were only beaten off

ceived reinforcement. One CID officer said: Crime in Dover and surrounding areas has gone up by 18 per cent, and even this is an underestimate as of course a lot of these attacks are simply not reported to the police.

when the police themselves re-

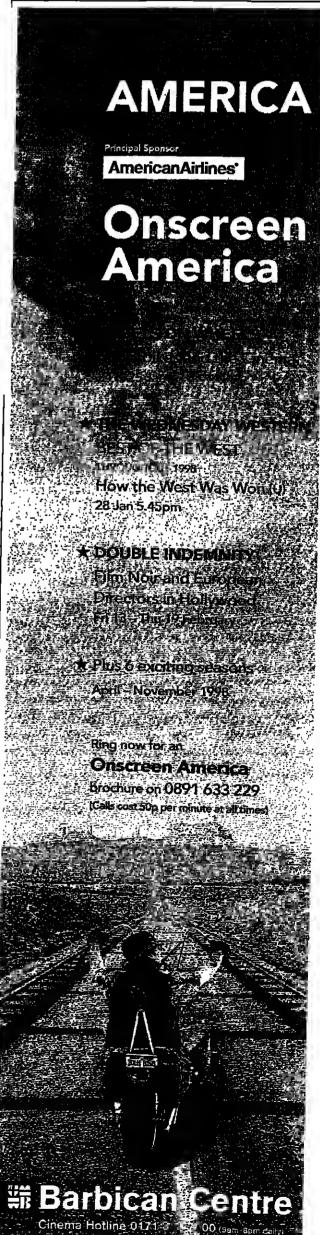
There are also links with drugs, hecause the heavies muscling in on bootlegging are also involved in drug trafficking. This is a problem which is not going to go away, we are facing a situation which was unheard of in Kent in the past". His counterparts in Surrey

would sympathise. A few years ago a pub described as the "most dangerous in Britain" was not in Brixton or the Glasgow Gorbals, hut Carshalton. The St Helier Tavern had seen many fights and a man was shot in the face with a sawn-off shotgun. A hetter class of villain has

taken up residence further out in expensive areas like Wevbridge where they rub shoulders in the golf club with actors and stockbrokers. A detective said: They may think [that] away from the centre of London they would be away from prying eyes if the law, but we make sure we keep a watch on them. They may feel they are blending in with their neighbours, but we know who they are".

Criminologist Robert Emerson believes the expansion of crime into the Home Counties cannot be reversed. He said: "Social and logistical factors are such that this is bound to continue. However, it is unlikely the ordinary Home Counties residents would be directly affected by viulence. After all, the criminals tend to only kill each other."

A horrific murder case this week highlighted on the violent and closed world of English gangland: but these are a new generation of villains the thugs from suburbia



### A presidency unzipped: history will not judge him kindly



EDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARE. LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 017J 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

It seems unlikely that President Clinton will he impeached. Even if he has told and encouraging the telling of - the little lies that are needed for the functioning of a society huilt on the myth of serial monogamy. But this week's revelations have delivered a joll to the presidency that will change history. Until this week, Bill Clinton was destined to he remembered as a moderate reformer, a "borderline third tier" President, in the words of his former adviser Dick Morris. Now he will go down as Slick Willy, a man who made . himself look ridiculous and demeaned the office of President because he could not keep his trousers up.

That is probably all that history - popular history anyway - will have room for: a couple of lines in a school textbook, and a photo of Bill and Hillary. (She, incidentally, is now more likely to be captioned as a stoic wife than the woman who tried to reform health care and failed.)

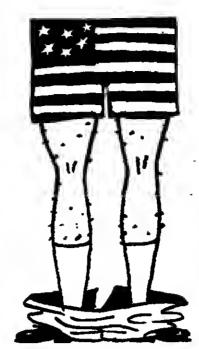
For us, who have to live through these times, however, the question, "Does Clinton matter?", is more complex, pressing and relevant. It is fit to ask: What difference would it make if Clinron fell? In order to answer that question, we have to assess both Clinton's record and - a few years early - the prospect of an Al Gore

So far, Clinton's record has been disappointing. He was elected on two important pledges. One was to give America a national health service: the other was to "end welfare as we know it". Both are still as far from fulfilment as ever. The nation has probably decided that it doesn't really want a comprehensive health service after all, while welfare reform has turned out to be much more difficult than the simplicities of campaign rhetoric could ever

This second failure has obvious and ominous implications for Tony Blair. whose New Labour platform was partly inspired by the 1992 US presidential campaign, in which Bill Clinton ran as a "New Democrat". However, it must be remembered that

the US constitution is very different from ours. Much of the responsibility for welfare lies with the states rather than the federal government. It has long been observed that in times other than those of national emergency, the President's main power lies in the realm of persuasion, symbol and rhetoric.

In these areas, Clinton has been the President for the time. A large rambling mansion of a man, a likeable, loosefitting amalgam of good intentions. policy ideas and testosterone, he has



proved surprisingly popular. Like Mr Blair, he has been able to find the words to unite a nation in shock: the Oklahoma bombing was his death of a princess. But that is as far as the transatlantic parallels go. Where Mr Blair is straight and puritanical, Mr Clinton is loose, erratic and a philanderer.

The present crisis has arisen almost inexorably from the pressures of the American political system. It requires candidates who are larger than life, over-endowed with personal charm in order to raise vast sums of money, and with mass-media sex appeal to cut through the cluster of the television age. It is bound to bring forth over-sexed men with an instrumental view of the opposite sex.

At the same time, it demands adherence to a moral code that owes more to New England in the 1600s than to the reality of modern life in Peoria, Illinois. The American media are still surprisingly prudish in matters sexual, but they are no longer so deferential as in the 1960s, when John Kennedy complained that he got a headache if he didn't incessantly satisfy his

None of this seems to matter much to the American electorate. Clinton has presided over stable economic growth and, partly as a result, has cut the federal hndget deficit. He is, in fact, one of the most popular Presidents ever. But Dick Morris did not lisr Dwighr Eisenhower as one of the 18 "great" Presidents, not even of the third tier. "He didn't do anything. Popularity doesn't get you on the list."

Clinton, then, will go down as a President who reflected America rather than changing it. His sexual appetite stands as a vivid analogy for America's gross desire to consume material goods and petroleum. The contrast with his Vice-President is stark. Al Gore is a buttoned up puritan, who would have been satisfied burning witches righteously in Salem. He wrote a book about America's responsihility to save the planet from environmental disaster. And he took office with a plan to "reinvent government", to turn the incubus of state bureaucracy into an agent of change. That didn't happen, partly because Clinton, loose, creative and brilliant, dissipated the administration's political energies in too many large and unsuccessful policy initiatives.

It is a good thing that the US constitution does not allow the President too much scope for screwing things up. But it looks as if it will be up to Mr Gore to test the potential power of the presidency to change America for the better. Thar will probably not happen ahead of schedule, but it does no harm that this week's events have turned attention to the future. If the most powerful nation on earth can both be better governed and more environmentally responsible, that would be a step forward for the world.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ulster's identity

Sir: The question of the "loyalists" of Northern Ireland is not whether they are British or Irish (letter, 22 January), but to what extent they are a nation unto themselves. The people of Ulster have a national identity that is separate from, but attached to, their British, or even Irish, identity. Most countries of Europe are in fact a patchwork of peoples who have a complex and shifting relationship with the nation state to which they legally Ireland is inhabited by two

nations, two peoples, and the violence will not end until that fact is accepted and respected by all sides. Merely to "decant" the trouble from a British container into an Irish one would not change a thing. Though it would, if forced upon the Ulster people, mean another hundred years of killiog with Irish soldiers and policemen who have to put on uniforms and wander the streets as easy meat for the guns of Ulsterite die-bards. DANIEL MORNIN

London SW20

 Sir: Your correspondents (20 January) question the use of the term "loyalists" in Northern ireland. There are at least two

The first relates to the perception that "loyalism" relates to loyalty to the Crown and government of the UK. This is lovalty in accordance with the old Scottish Presbyterian concept of covenanting. Here loyalty is not an absolute that is simply given and implies blind obedience, but is part of a hargain struck between two parties (the covenant). Both sides have to keep their sides of the hargain, otherwise the "deal" is off. Many "loyalists" fear that the Crown (via its government) is not being loyal to

The above is not a use of the term "loyal" that would be commonly thought of in England, Wales, America or even the Republic of Ireland. This highlights the importance of not assuming "Anglican"

A second usage of "loyalist" in Ulster is that of loyal to each other "loyal and true" to your fellow "Prod" in the struggles with Catholics that have been a feature of nearly 400 years of history. This huilds upon the old tradition of "banding" coming together in common defence to keep the peace and protect life and property in the face of rebellion and attacks, where the individual interest was seen as inseparable from communal welfare. For Ulster Protestants this is especially important, given their identity myths of siege and massacre at the hands of

Catholics. It is only those unfamiliar with Ulster Protestants who find a contradiction in the use of the term "loyalist". **EAMES DINGLEY** Centre for the Study of Conflict University of Ulster

Jordanstown, Co. Anunm

may turn for belp in purchasing works of art, the Purchase Grant Fund.

Administered by the Victo-Galleries Commission, this fund



'Loyal and true': Orange marchers at Drumcree

Woodlands for all

Sir: Publication by the Forestry Commission of a new standard for managing Britain's woodland (report, 22 January) is an museums and galleries, such as important step forward for environmentally friendly forestry. But it is regrettable that the standard does not insist upon public access to publicly subsidised woodlands.

If it is true that private landowners would rather not accept grants to create new woodland than do so subject to allowing public access, then the answer to the question of how woodland cover in Britain can be expanded is clear.

The Treasury's annual handout of £33m in planting grants should be transferred from the private sector to the Forestry Commission. Let the commission create the new woodlands that successive governments have aimed for and that the public clearly wants.

The commission has never had any hang-ups about giving Defence review people freedom to roam through its woodlands. They do this on a large scale and find it conflicts not at all with the commission's other functions, such as producing timber and protecting wildlife. ALAN MATTINGLY

Director. The Ramblers' Association London SW8

#### Art in the regions

Sir: Andrew Lambirth's article "The glories of the garden" (ISM, 17 January) lucidly provided the historical context for the Royal Academy's exhibition "The Art Treasures of England", which has been selected from public art collections in the regions. However, he omitted to mention, among the bodies to which museums and galleries

ria and Albert Museum on behalf of the Museums and

was established more than a century ago solely to support acquisitions in the regions. In recent decades, for many York City Art Gallery, with limited resources, the acquisition of any work costing more than a few hundred pounds would have been unthinkable without the support of the Purchase Grant Fund.

In the case of modest purchases such support is often 50 per cent of the cost, while the fund also plays an important role in providing partnership funding (at a lower percentage) for more ambitious purchases. The Burra and the Batoni in the current RA exhibition are just two examples of 80 purchases made by York City Art Gallery since 1961 with assistance from the fund.

RICHARD GREEN Curator York City Art Gallery

Sir: It is regrettable that the headline you used in the article about the Strategic Defence Review ("Forces in revolt over cost-cutting review", 22 January) gave such a misleading impression of the story below. The fact is that the criticisms detailed in the article, many of which are neither new or surprising, are Ministry of Defence directed not at the Strategic Defence Review hut at the problems which we identified in opposition. I launched the review precisely to deal with these problems.

I will not comment on the details contained in the leaked document, except that it demonstrates the truly open pature of the review process. I said last year that we would consult widely and listen to what people said. That is what we are do-

Perfect purity ing. No punches are being

pulled in this review. The feedback it has received underlines that we were right to make the review a foreign policy rather than a resource led process. This is not a cost-cutting exercise but a re-examination of our defence requirements from first principles. Indeed, one of the main issues at the heart of our work is the need to address overstretch on our personnel and the shortfalls in military capability inbenited by this government, after very deep cuts by the last one.

The Prime Minister rightly said at the Lord Mayor's Banquel last November that we must always look for efficiency in money spent on defence, but we must not reduce our capahility to exercise a role on the international stage.

The messages we are receiving from our personnel, both military and civilian, are that they want vision for defence into the next century, that people matter and that they believe the review must address these issues. I agree entirely with them. The review will provide the vision needed to underpin strong and relevant defence, based on the clear belief that people are our most important asset. GEORGE ROBERTSON Secretary of State London SWI

#### Cycle warning

Sir: On-the-pavement fines for cyclists? Licences and number plates (Letters, 22 January)? No. these are bureaucratic and unnecessary solutions. All a cyclist needs is to be preceded by a recognisable motor vehicle bearing a prominent red flag. KENNETH WILSON

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Sir. In Emily Passmore's interesting article on the Corbières region of France (Travel, 17 January), the spiritual leaders of the Cathar (or Albigensian) community are referred to as "prefects". This is presumably a misprint for "perfects" as they were known in French as les parfaits or les bonshommes, a group of people, mainly hut not exclusively men, who had taken vows of purity and abstention from meat and sexual activity. This presented a contrast to many of the regular clergy of the Roman Church. I do wonder a little about the

advisability of staying at Montsegur, where, in 1244, the TJ CRAMB Cathars emerged after a twoyear siege in their eyrie to be burned alive, en masse, in the village below. It would take a strong stomach not to to feel haunted, however delicious the plats du jour. **ELIZABETH MONKHOUSE** London NW11

#### Glorious Galliano

Sir: Galliano the gloriousl Galliano the genius! A most emphatic "yes". At last someone has had the courage to create a "variation on a theme" with the quality of fashions of a past age (Fashion, 21 January). Galfiano's inspiration, Paul

Poiret, drew his own inspiration directly from the clothes of 100 years before his time, the Directoire period. He had an empire devoted to couture. perfume, shoes, millinery and interior design. His "1002nd Night" or "Persian Celebration" of 1911 epitomised his flair for theatricality and heauty; seltings were designed by Raoul Dufy and Dunoyer de Segonzac.

tating a thing of heauty and taste, the only crime is in running up a satin slip and calling it couture, which seems to be the order of the day. SIMON M O'CORRA London SE13

○ **( )** •

In praise of Leylandii

Sir: The hobby landscapers and weekend ecologists who denigrate Leylandii (report, 21 January) have no concept of the scale of damage which is being inflicted on the countryside by exposure, wind-blow and soil erosion.

The only trees which can hold their own in the deteriorating conditions are trees like Leylandii. They must be planted as nurse crops to enable the original indigenous species to be replanted with a chance of survival. My family and I have been able to use Leylandii to shelter plantings of hazel, elder, blackthorn and dog rose which in turn have led to recolonisation by endangered dormice, along with more common wildlife. BRIAN GREEN

Willingham, Cambridgeshire

Sir: America can be blamed for many things, but not the Leyland cypress. This plant first appeared as a natural hybrid between Cupressus macrocarpa and Chamaecyparis nootkatensis in Montgomeryshire in 1888, so although both parents are North American species it is only fair to attribute blame to the Welsh. JOHN ANDERSON Truro, Cornwall

Sir. The anti-social nature of Leylandii could be overcome by feeding trespassing roots with weedkiller. The owner might sue, but with so many mitigating factors the outcome might well be an uncomfortable draw.

The notional value of such a tree would be a matter for discussion but the cost would be much less than the £100,000 of fruitless litigation undertaken by Michael Jones and, of course, there would be no shadow to mar the proceedings ...

Wolsingham, Co Durham

#### Rickman says sorry

Sir: I should know better than to be led into a discussion of contentious issues where there is the possibility of its being reported ("Alan Rickman says RSC is wasting young actors' talent", 21 January).

I have nothing but admiration and support for Adrian Noble. and know only too well of my debt to the RSC. I was merely trying to point out the strained connection between continual underfunding and real artistic freedom. I was also talking mainly about a period of time which takes no account of recent major Actor Development programmes within the company.

The NFT session was held before the latest round of cuts to the arts. I can only a pologise for my lousy timing. ALAN RICKMAN London WI

#### Travel insurance

Sir. Could it be that Tony Blair, There is no shame in imiin authorising the cost of ministers taking their partners on official visits abroad, is hoping that they will avoid the kind of accusations Bill Clinton is facing? It could be money well spent. STEPHEN LEEKE Warboys, Cambridgeshire

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We mention today the "battle of the hiographies" in which our own Don Macintyre takes on the Independent on Sunday's Paul Routledge in rival versions of the life of Peter Mandelson. Biographing (if that's the word) politicians is one of the traditional cottage industries for West-

minster journalism. · Most of the key players in New Labour have had the treatment. There's heen Blair (by John Rentoul of The Independent and by Jon Sopel of the BBC), John Prescott (by Colin Brown of The Independent) and Gordon Brown - no relation - by Routledge again. Rohin Cook's life, loves and times from the Financial Times. Now it's Mandelson's turn.

Privy Counsellor, but better. put off. Some readers, however, may be wondering why so many Indy journalists are writing hiographies in the first place. Is it because they are they very poor? No, is my answer to that. They are not poor enough. All our political staff are exceedingly wellpaid in kind, receiving monthly parcels of rye-bread, candles, hiro refills, industrial alcohol, evaporated milk and hair-oil, for which they

are exceedingly grateful. Is it because they are not working at the day job? Well, Sunday political journalists, as is well known, do very little anyway. Most of their time is spent lounging around in silk pyjamas, drinking liqueurs with their pinkies raised and discussing their love lives in tones of languid boredom. (This is particularly true of Mr

Routledge.) reason is that these chaps are highly talented and in great demand. Whether that is also true of their subjects, I leave the reader to judge.

The Royal Opera's Nozzi di Figuro has been heavily attacked, first by the Royal Corps of Newspaper Critics -including our own - and then by Gerald Kaufman, the Labour MP and culture committee chairman, who wildly suggested that the poor reviews strengthened the case for some management firings. I went to see it this week and hugely enjoyed il --

singing, direction, set and all. Yet for all I know, the crit-. ics were right as critics. Their judgements are sophisticated and essential in keeping up standards. But for the rest of us, it's important to remember that the same show, film or concert, judged second-rate are being prepared by a man by a critic of exquisite taste and elephantine memory, can still feel wonderful and liber-For politicians, "getting ating to the common herd, the book" is a rite of arrival. In short, believe what you on a par with becoming a read, but don't necessarily be

> I have a wodge of letters taking us to task for hypocrisy in running a leader on the importance of spelling.

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Brigit Rohowsky from Dulwich was "appalled by the pomposity and inappropriateness" of the editorial. Peter Fooks from Nottingham pointed out that The Independent crossword on the same day as the leader apparently contained the answer extravert". John Andrews of Lewes claims that we spoke recently of someone having a "hair lip" (and that we didn't mean moustache).

All I can say is that our modestly-sized staff produces, in only a few intense hours at the end of the average day, up to 60,000 words, or the equivalent of a small novel, and that the mistakes are, though too many, also comparatively few. As for the rest, they work In the same bundle of letters very hard, but save time by of complaint, for instance. rarely washing or changing their clothes. No, the simple words, I found five spelling errors or serious errors of punctuation. Of the errors we do make, most are first edition mistakes, corrected for the bulk of the daily run.

"It will all end in tears. Most of the women will lose their seats at the next election, and the Mother of Parliaments will return, thankfully, to being the best club in London." Sir Julian Critchley, former Tory MP, on Blair's babes

"Poets don't huild swimming pools. I'm going to spend it on the electricity hill and food." - Don Paterson, or winning the £5,000 T S Eliot prize

"I am a well-known élitist. I don't even own a pair of trainers. If I did, I am sure they would be very fragrant."

The best way to build a stone wall is at dusk and when you are slightly drunk. It really flows." - Giles Downes, the Queen's

"Aromatherapy is like going into the countryside and smelling flowers. It should be available in Parliament. They already have it in some mental hospitals." - Simon Hughes, Liberal

#### Castro and the Pope agree on one thing -down with America!



DAVID **AARONOVITCH** THE CLASH OF ICONS

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An icon is someone you can recognise from behind. William Hague and Kate Winslet, for example, are not icons; Margaret Thatcher and John Wayne certainly were. And two of the greatest extant icons came together this week on a warm, beautiful island in the

No, not Mick Jagger and Tma Turner on Mustique. Two great hero/villains of the second half of this century, celebrated their likely survival into the early years of the next, by meeting up, kissing each other and hanging out. The Pope and Fidel (having outlived Leonid, Margaret, Josip Broz, Kim II Sung and Jimmy Stewart) were celebrating their own remarkable longevity. To see them together was to go on icon overload, like looking at old photographs of Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt at the Yalta conference. or a enjoying a dream of Diana having dinner with Marilyn in heaven.

For one moment I had a fantasy of them swapping their iconic togs, like footballers exchange shirts at the end of a big match. Fidel would clamber into a cassock, hang the crucifix round his neck and don the skullcap. John Paul II, in turn, would fasten those fatigues, pull up the combat boots and firmly clamp a huge Havana hetween his dentures, Disappointingly, only one wore the full icome regalia: the Pope turned out in snowwhite Popegear, but Castro wore a dark suit. This made him look attractively winsome. as though he were a young suitor visiting his girlfriend's parents one Sunday Junchtime.

So, there they were, these two redoubtable men, icons grown old. One once represented the vigour, sexiness and hope of socialist revolution; the other the much longer tradition of the one true church. What was it that drew them together, that made their sharing of one spotlight so surprisingly comfortable?

There is, after all, one pretty bone of contention between them -- God. Fidel does not believe in him, and the Pope does. And, insofar as communism has traditionally been associated with godlessness, one would ex-

pect the Cuban regime to be exactly the type of government here on earth that the Pontiff would most like to dislodge. Especially as he has been accorded a similar accolade with regard to the fall of the Berlin wall to that which The Sun allowed itself after the 1992 election - it was the Pope wot

It should not have been a surprise, therefore, to see the American magazine Time comment in its latest issue that "this week the Pope brings his message of freedom to Fidel Castro, as two of the world's giants collide". According to this version of the iconoclash, Fidel is tolerating the Pope because he is desperate for recognition, and the Holy Father is there to wean weary Cubans away from communism.

This is old-fashioned, America-centric, Cold War bollocks. The idea that the Pope has a "message of freedom" is in any case bizarre. Catholicism is not about freedom, which it does not recognise as essential for the human condition. Dignity, yes. Freedom, no. The Holy Office of the Inquisition - renamed the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith - still exists today; and you can still be branded a heretic in today's church. Old Galileo was only rehabilitated in 1992, some 360 years after having been condemned; Gorhachev managed to get Bukharin rehabilitated inside 50.

But even the fact that both Cuba and the church aren't democratic isn't really the point. The fact is that, these days, there is more that can unite men like Castro and Wojtila than must necessarily divide them. For a start, they are not as hostile to each other as an American perspective might assume. Fidel has drunk at the well of liberation theology; there are plenty of Catholics that he likes and would call comrade. His enemies are those forces that would crush him and - in his terms - destroy his country. Catholicism is not one of those forces.

Now look at the world from under the skullcap, communism, once the terrible secular threat to organised religion, is everywhere vanquished. From Italy to Argentina, from Canada to Kamehatka, there are no communists. Across the world the market reigns. So the Pope's enemy is no longer organised labour, marching to the drumbeat of a single ideology, defeated if that one ideology is defeated. In 1998 it is the far more powerful, less ideological and therefore less confrontable global system of capitalism which provides the church with its challenge.

In its global phase capitalism is raising as many ethical and spiritual questions, as it answers material ones. Across the developed world many are richer, but most are, they say, no happier. In a flicker of a computer screen whole communities are swept away, employers feel no responsibility for their employees, employees feel no loyalty to their companies. Fidel and John Paul may look at Russia, and see communism replaced with prostitution, exploitation, rampant crime and all the other ugly stepsisters of consumerism. And both do not like what they see. This is something that Americans cannot understand.

So, these two last doddering representatives of two great ideologies, both of which contend that there is something above us. whether it be the possibility of a heaven on earth, or the certainty of a heaven in heaven, can find both common cause and sense some opportunity. Both memhers of a priestly caste, set to show us the path to enlightenment, they appeal, in their different ways, to deeper human values. They can make us good human beings. Anything you can do, they are saying, icon do better.

### Berating politicians will not bring public money back to the arts



#### **TREVOR PHILLIPS** THE VOTERS CALL THE TUNE

I don't often feel sorry for politicians, but I spared a prayer the other day for Chris Smith. This week, the withdrawal of grants to one London theatre, following the Arts Council's cut in funding from the Government, has provoked a sort of Wagnerian fury, most of which has fallen around the head of the poetry-reading Secretary of State for Culture. And he was subjected to a double-pronged attack by Sir Peter Hall and Lesley Garrett while finishing the nice lunch provided by arts guru Melvyn Bragg: not the ideal mood music for your dessert.

A debate over arts funding in Britain could be a good thing. If it brings the public rushing to the artists' defence it will be marvellous. If it were, better still, to hring the public rushing to put their hands in their pockets and their burns oo the seats it would be even better. Best of all, if it persuades our politicians to force the arts higher on the list of the Treasury's priorities, then we enter the kingdom of heaven. However, there is a long way tn go before that happens.

What accomplished artists at the top of their professions, such as Sir Peter and Miss Garrett, may oot have grasped is that, sadly, their genius for combining artistic achievement and pulling power is exceptional. For the most part, the publicly supported arts world does not manage both tricks at the same time. That is why they need public funds. But in order to gain public funds at a higher level, we need to win over the public; and howls of outrage at a popular government are not the best start.

This may provoke renewed cries of "Uriah Heep": but I think that genuine supporters of the arts can see that there is little mileage in being stupidly butch. It may make for marvellous speeches; but life is not a play, and rhetoric will not make much difference to the opportunities open to real artists in the real world. There are a few home truths that need to be registered if we are to have any hope of improving the



Peter Hall (left) at 'The South Bank Show' Awards, where he lectured Chris Smith (middle)

appalling position of artists and arts organisations. First, the fact that people

come to cultural events, whether film, theatre, visual arts or music, does not mean that they think that the taxpayer should provide more money for these activities. All the signs are that the public does wonder why it has to back artists to this way. New voices in Parliament multer that there is no reason why the public should support opera or theatre, when football has to make its own way; and they do not all come from the unreconstructed Tory right. It is not good enough to shout "phdistine" or "hrute"; this is not a conviocing argument when used against a smartsuited New Lahour government that includes one of our greatest actresses. It also sounds utterly hypocritical from people who told us only a year ago that New Labour would save the nation. What are people to make of the principles of those who squeal when they find that their particular vested interest is not first in the queue for rescue? Were we in the arts asleep when Gordon Brown promised to continue

Tory spending policies? Second, it is true that several years of stand-still funding have left many arts organisations on the verge of collapse, desperately searching for more and more crowd-pleasing (and often unadventurous) ways of making the books halance. But it is also true that hardly anyone asks whether we need the number of arts organisations we have, or whether they are the right sorts of institutions for the 21st century.

The Greenwich Theatre, for example, has over the past two years swallowed more than half-a-million pounds of public money. Its board, which includes some outstanding people who know about theatre. could hardly be regarded as novices or incompetents. Yet, audiences have fallen steadily, and the deficit has risen to over £200 000, with no sign of either trend heing reversed. In spite of some critical success, on average fewer than three out of 10 seats were filled by paying customers last year. The audience for the kind of theatre put on at Greeowich has disappeared from south-east London, and no matter how many hig cames are imported, this is

Third, the fact that an arts organisation once had public funding does not mean that it should retain it for ever. Unless governments were able to guarantee a larger proportion of public money for the arts every single year, that would mean that no new artists could ever gain access to public support. That doesn't leave much room for the emerging talents from, say, the minority communities who do not want to do theatre or music the way it has traditionally been done, and do not want to have to rely on a white sponsor to get their work done. The funding system has to be able to refresh itself; as some come in, others must go out.

no longer a viable proposition.

Fourth, don't let's be sniffy about the role of non-Treasury funds. The contribution in bringing on new talent in the partnership between the London Arts Board and Sir Cameron Mackintosh is a lifeline to many

of the capital's young artists; and writing as chairman of the LAB, I can cheerfully say that anyone else who wants to put up money for artists and arts organisations can call me up any time. But we should not rest our hopes on the much-hoped-for lottery pot of gold; new legislation may well make it possible to use lottery cash for people instead of palaces - as ever, demand will dwarf supply.

Finally, there may he a bepublic investment in the arts is lief that like most previous governments, ministers in this one will hack down once they realise - shock, horror, gasp that they may not be invited to opening nights if they don't roll over. Forget it. Eveo if they believed that, the hig men in this Government probably wouldn't care much, they hay their own tickets and are proud of it. This lot will not be frightened by anyone except the voters.

And that perhaps is where we all oeed to turn our attention. Berating people who have been elected to do what they are doing simply suggests arrogance. The case for public investment is not yet made in spite of the gallant efforts of many the National Campaign for the Arts, for example, Shouldn't all the glamorous firepower be directed towards creating a compelling case for the arts being funded with public money? Nobody argues about money for lihraries, even when they are late in being built, and the shelves don't work. The same could not be said about the opera. We need, as a prerequisite, to show that we are managing the arts effectively and efficiently; and that where the public's money is being used it is being used to back work that is high quality and innovative. But the overriding case for

not economic, or social, or political; it is not even the value of the arts themselves. All of these reasons could equally be supported by private donations. No, the case lies in the simple fact that, as a society, we nced artists to tell us our own story, to make sense of the world we are in and to reflect our values and morals in a variety of ways. But if we are to have this done honestly, and without the hand of political or commercial despots inserting a distorting lens between the artist and the audieoce, there must be untainted backing from a neutral source, and the Treasury is as close as we'll come to it. The real case for public investment in the arts is not that it makes our society rich or that it keeps artists supplied with canvas and oils; it is that it is the only hope of keeping us honest about ourselves.

### If it's got a plug on the end of it, Bill Gates wants a piece of it



CHARLES ARTHUR WHO CAN STOP MICROSOFT?

"Microsoft may hid for BT." said the morning papers yesterday. The story hummed around the stock exchanges for hours. It looked as though Bill Gates - you know, the other Bill, the unpopular one who also lives in Washington, not the district of Columbia hut the state - might become the man on the end of the phone. It wasn't true, as it turned out, but it was frightening for a few

After all, nobody outside the computer industry cares very much if Netscape - a bunch of programmers who wear their baseball caps hackwards, do their work and order pizzas at

3am, and live in Silicon Valley - gets rolled over by Bill Gates's behemoth, do they? And nobody really minds if countless smaller software rivals find they either do things Microsoft's way or don't do them at all. That's the way of the market. people say.

But suggest that Bill Gates might own BT, and you change the game. If you picked up the phone, would the dialling tone still be saying "Brrttr"? Or would it be "Billiuminimin"? Or just "Moneyyyyyyyy"? And, cynics might ask, would it crash all the time?

The rumour wasn't true. but it helps put the raging hattles in the computer world into worrying perspective. If we only perceive computers as things we use at work, and occasionally at home, to do particular tasks, it doesn't seem very threatening if Microsoft takes them over. Word processing? Who cares if the program is by Microsoft or Nichemarket Software?

But when you start thinking about the way telecommunications changes business, and you think about the way that Microsoft uses its size to tilt any playing field it gets on to in its favour, then you realise that if Microsoft did swallow BT that tuna sleak really could end up dearer, Did the computers that supermarkets use to work out their orders use Microsoft software, which crashed and sent the lorry with the fish to Llandudno instead of London? So sorry.

Lest this sound too fanciful (as the rumours were), let me quote Gates earlier this week. when he admitted his company had had talks with telecomms companies: "All we need to do is take Windows [software] and extend it so that it can be the base for telephony ... and find out what the communications industry needs in order for Windows NT [another Microsoft operating system) to be a key building

Note that phrase, "key building block". That's where Gates wants to be - holding everything up. controlling the toll bridge for software. This is a company which wants so much to control your life that later this year it is introducing a chip-powered children's toy. Interactive Barney, which "talks and sings along with your video and PC- (Of course, if your home computer isn't running

in vain.) Would-be rivals will always be behind the game hecause Microsoft, being a single com-

Windows, your purchase will be

pany, always has the commercial edge of knowing what it is planning next. That's the power of monopoly, as any Monopoly player learns; when you own all the squares, you don't mind who lands on them, because they always end up pay-

ing you. The idea of competition being shut out has led many Americans - usually so ready to applaud success - to oppose the idea that Microsoft might spread its tentacles any further. Some have developed a visceral haired for Gates, which can't have come from a few annoying computer crashes. While the US Department of Justice sortof "won" part if its anti-trust lawsuit yesterday - with Microsoft agreeing not to twist PC manufacturers' arms to make them install its Internet brows-

er - the wider game is not over. "In the real world, Microsoft has already succeeded in nailing Netscape." said Gary Arlen. a technology analysi. "The damage may have already been done. Microsoft may have already accomplished its goal in detenting its competitors." Su people are asking: since

the Department of Justice has signally failed to close the Gates, is there some computing innovation on the way that will have the same effect?

Perhaps. While the computer industry may be relatively young, we have been here before. IBM used to be the one constantly fighting the US Department of Justice, forever signing anti-trust "consent decrees". IBM dominated. Then, in 1982, the PC came along. (Ironically, it was IBM that moved the PC from the hobbyist's garage and on to the corporate desktop.) IBM thought hardware would be the key: u turned out that was easy to make - software is the really

valuable stuff. Microsoft won. Now, some people are tempted to think that a programming language called "Java" could be the undoing of Microsoft, could turn back the Microsoft tide and Bill Gates's wish to have his software run on every computer, everywhere.

Unfortunately, if Java is the answer, then the question must he a pretty silly one. Java is a computer programming language - like Cobol. Basie, Fortran. Pascal, Lisp. More prosaically. Web surfers will know it as "that thing on Weh sites which crashes your computer".

Java doesn't try to replace Windows, or any operating system. It just lets computers connected over a network run the same programs, no matter what

the chips or operating systems inside them are. It's a way of doing things in spread-out systems. Interestingly, Microsoft has tried to co-opt it and create its uwn "standard" Java, which of

course only does things on Microsoft-based machines. Perhaps Gates does see it as a threat. Certainly Larry Ellison, head of the enormous database company Oracle, has touted Java and an idea called the "network computer" (essentially a PC, but without a hard disc) as the way to strangle Microsoft. It's not going to happen, because even if your TV metamorphoses into a computer it will still need an operating system underneath and Microsoft will determinedly wedge itself in.

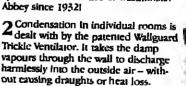
While it's tempting to hope, Micawber-like, that "something will turn up" that will rehuff Gates, it's likely to be something as lateral, as unobvious, as the PC was. At the time, that was thought to be another string in IBM's all-embracing bow, another huilding block. It turned out to be the thread that unravelled its power. Perhaps something is coming, but in the meantime, people will be cheering the Department of Justice on and jeering every time Bill Gates whines, "But we only want to compete!"

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### **Chaim Bermant**

Chaim Icyk Bermant, writer: born Bresley, Poland 26 February 1929; married 1962 Judy Weil (two sons, two daughters); died London 20 January 1998.

Nobody - rabhi, scholar or politician - was as central to British Jewish life as Chaim Bermant. Over two decades, his "On the Other Hand" column was the centrepiece of the Jewish Chronicle. As such, it provided both stability and controversy. He brought into focus the preoccupations, follies and foibles of a disparate yet distinctive minority. Although this minority almost wilfully failed to cohere in other respects, every week it united in devouring whether with relish or indigestion - the Bermant column.

His ability to achieve this was hased upon a style that, for all is earthy and conversational qualities, was consistently elegant. The magic ingredient was humour. He had a warmth and a wit that enabled him to convey profound sentiments with the lightest of touches.

The product of a rigidly orthodox uphringing, he was hy temperament and intellectual inclination both flexible and liberal. He was drenched in traditional Judaism and retained a love for it throughout his life. If ever a Jew advanced the letter of religious law, it was Chaim Bermant. In an age of doubt, in which Bermant ofteo found himself on the side of the sceptics and agnostics against those empowered to speak with authority on Jewish religious teaching, he was sometimes asked about his own beliefs, "I believe in Judaism," he would reply, "but not in rabbis,"

This was a telling remark for someone whose father bad been a rabbi, originally in Eastern Europe, where Chaim was born in 1929, in Breslev in a part of Poland subject to frequent border changes. In 1933, the family moved to a small, largely Jewisb village in Latvia. himself in charge of both of the two local synagogues. This experience prompted Bermant to recall, in relation to the custom of celebrating two-day Jewisb holidays in the Diaspora, that he had always thought this was "so that one rabhi could minister to two congregations".

In 1938, the Bermants came to Glasgow where, after school, the young Chaim taught for a



Bermant: 'I believe in Judaism, but not in rabbis' Photograph: Ken Sharp

while in Hebrew classes. One of his pupils was Cyril Harris, today the Chief Rabbi of South Africa. Thus was achieved the final leavening of the unique Bermant accent - Polisb-Lithuanian-Latvian-Yiddish-Scottish - in which short, staccato phrases issued through an equally complex arrangement of facial bair, itself consistently at risk from the sparks and smoke of a dangling. untipped cigarette.

An ardent, though far from uncritical, Zionist, Bermant spent several prolonged periods in Israel. He tried kibbutz life in the early 1950s and, after marrying the painter Judy Weil. twice tried to transfer his family life to the Holy Land - in the 1970s and 1980s. However, he found it holier in Hampstead Garden Suburb, upon which he frequently bestowed Eden-like qualities in print.

After higher education at

Glasgow University and the LSE, he became a schoolteacher between 1955 and 1957, before joining Scottish TV and then Granada, where he worked for Sidney Bernstein alongside Jeremy Isaacs. Had it not been for that impenetrable accent, he would doubtless have appeared more often than he did in front of the cameras. As it was, he showed considerable flair as a television dramatist with Pews (1980), a play about spirit of his religion above the a non-Jew mischievously conscripted into a quorum for

He was a skilled writer of fiction and non-fiction, with 30 books to his credit, His novels, including Jericho Sleep Alone (1964), Berl Make Tea (1965) and Now Newman Was Old (1978) were small masterpieces of sympathetic humour. His non-fictioo works, including the acclaimed account of leading Anglo-Jewisb families, The Cousinhood (1971) and a biography, in 1990, of the emeritus Chief Rabhi Lord Jakohovits, were invariably informative and

tures editor. But office routine was a constraint and he embarked upon a freelance life in 1966. In the following three decades be wrote for a number of newspapers, notably the Observer and the Daily Telegraph, with great eloquence and some versatility - he once briefly wrote a food column.

But his motivation and his milieu were quintessentially Jewish, and his principal public platform was the Jewish Chronicle. His knowledge and hackground gave him the authority to expose intolerance and absurdities wherever they occurred, even within the most observant of religious circles. His powers of expression - as potent as any journalist writing in this country - made such exposure effective. He despised fanaticism, hlinkered intolerance and injustice and was able to attack examples of them without recourse to vitriol. He was also capable of fond praise and lyrical reflection.



Letting slip his private persona: Eden in the field in Guyana, 1993

#### Michael J. Eden

Michael John Eden, geographer: born Brenchley. Kent I0 December 1936: Lecturer, Bedford College (later Royal Holloway, University of London) 1964-94, Senior Lecturer 1994-98; died Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire II January 1998

Michael J. Eden was a concerned environmentalist long before such a title and role hecame fashionable, His work on tropical ecology and land management in Venezuela, Colombia, Guyana, Brazil and Papua New Guinea established him internationally. He was also wellknown for his forays into remote sensing (viewing the Earth from satellite images) in relation to the evaluation of tropical land cover and management practices.

Eden was an experienced and proficient field worker in tropical regions. He was Leader of the Geographical Magazine Hovercraft Expedition to Ama- wood School, in Bath, he ber of the Royal Geographical Society's Maraca Rainforest read Geography. He worked as

His book Ecology and Land Management in Amazonia was published in 1990. Reviewing it in the Geographical Journal, Professor Nigel Smith concluded that it was "the best book on Amazonian development availahle".

Eden was appointed to a Lectureship in the Department of Geography at Bedford College, London, in 1964, where in those early years he contributed to teaching on first-year climatology, aspects of geomorphology and Latin America. In the courses that he taught subsequently, on tropical ecological systems and tropical forest ecology and management (he remained at the college, through its various incarnations, until his death), he captivated a generation of undergraduate students.

Michael Eden was born in 1936, the son of a Methodist minister, whom he outlived by little more than a year. Following his schooling at Kingsion of 1977 and a mem. Force before poing up to Christ Church, Oxford, in 1958 to

Water and Power Development Authority in West Pakistan before taking an MSc at McGill University. His thesis was puhlished in 1964 as The Savanna Ecosystem: Northern Rupununi, British Guiana - the first puhlication in the McGill Savanna Research Series, Whilst undertaking this field project, he also served as the Director of Mc-Gill's field research station in

British Guiana (now Guyana). Eden was the quintessential English gentleman, kind, dignified, self-effacing, and with a dry sense of humour which took a while to decipher. He came into his own when in the field in the tropics, or at one of the many meetings of Commonwealth geographers which he arranged or attended, Far from the conventions and restrictions of institutional life, Mike Eden let slip his very private persona.

His workshops were always academically productive, and led to the publication of his two major works, Sensing and Trop-He joined the staff of the zonas in 1968, Scientific Leader undertook National Service as ical Land Management (1986) Jewish Chronicle in 1961 and of the Colombian Amazonas a Pilot Officer in the Royal Air and Land Degradation in the Tropics (1996), both co-prepared with Professor John Parry. As for his teaching, Eden in-

Project between 1985 and 1987. a soil surveyor attached to the structed from first-hand expe-

rience. Clear and lucid, he exemplified the traditional virtues of the university educator. He was unequivocal in stressing that he could not see how anyone could persist in university teaching unless they had a lasting commitment to communicate successfully with students.

Eden preferred the humid tropics to what he regarded as the increasing aridity of university administration. When he did undertake administrative tasks, he did so with quiet efficiency. From 1979 to 1988 he was a devoted Treasurer and European representative on the Committee of Management of the Commonwealth Geographical Bureau.

After major surgery for cancer some five years ago, Eden came full circle to research once again in Guyana. He was examining the sustainability of silviculture in the country's interior. Last May, he organised and chaired a successful one-day meeting on land development issues in Guyana at Royal Holloway, University of London. He had commitments and plans for ongoing research when his hrain tumour was diagnosed.

### Roly Wason

Cathcart Roland Wason, archaeologist, lens grinder, bus driver and writer: born Cossington, Somerset 2 April 1907; married 1935 Margherita Lamb (died 1992; three sons); died Taunton, Somerset 6 January 1998.

Roly Wason was one of the great Cambridge intellects of the era preceding the likes of Anthony Blunt and Kim Philby and, as with them, his political thinking changed radically from the cosy conversatism into which he was horn towards Marxism; but, not as with them, he remained loyal to his country.

Wason was born in Cossington, Somerset, in 1907. But, although he also spent the last year of his life there, he felt as much at home in Scotland; his grand- and great-grandfathers were Eugene Wason and Peter Rigby Wason, Scottish Liberal MPs (the latter was a promoter of the 1832 Reform Bill and co-founder of the Reform Cluh). And when his mother, the daughter of the founder of the Invalid Children's Aid Associacion (now I-Can), died oursing the wounded in France in the First World War, and his rear-admiral father was at sea, erdeenshire. It was this love of Scotland, and his deep understanding of the class system, that led to the publication in 1976 of his radical interpretation of Scottish history Rebel Scotland.

Wason's academic brilliance was slow to gain recognition, however. He often joked that his tutor at Rugby School was delighted whenever his marks were only just below those of the worst performer in his form, but he went on to become bead boy and then a leading student at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, whence he graduated with first class bonouts with distinction in Latin, Greek and Ancient History.

It was his love of Classics and Scotland that led to his meeting in Edinburgh with Margaret ("Margherita") Lamb. They cloped to Gretna Green, where they were married on 7 January 1935. To appease disconcerted parents they were married again at a registry office and finally in church. This hat-trick of weddings seemed to work - they were parted only by Margherita's death 57 years later.

During Wason's time as Professor of Archaeology at the University of Toronto, and Keeper of Near Eastern Antiquities at the Royal Ontario Museum, a position he bad taken up at the tender age of 24, and Margherita's research for ber PhD thesis, Class Struggles in Ancient Greece", the couple began travels and adventures that they continued in three phases of their lives. In the late 1920s and 1930s, they explored the whole of Eu-Greece and the Balkans. Travelling always by car (Frazer Nash, Lagonda, Bugatti, even on one occasion a 1902 de Dion Bouton), staying always in their rudimentary tent, they came to

be known and respected as much by the brigands of Albania as by the intelligentsia of Greece.

A dism

Then, from the mid-1950s to the late 1960s, they retraced their steps with their three young sons, taking camping equipment, clothes and provisions for up to six weeks at a time, on a motorcycle and sidecar. After their retirement in the Seventies, they travelled overland to Nepal and Bangladesh. and the central Asian states of the then Soviet Union.

V/ason remained true to his beliefs throughout his life. After only a year at Toronto, and a brief tenure as Lecturer in Classical Archaeology at Edinburgh University, he abandoned teaching students interested more in gaining a degree than in archaeology. When, in 1938, be became Organiser for the County of Argyll Labour Party, he rejected offers of parliamentary posts, seeing them as corruptly motivated. Rather, he became an expert lens grinder at Barr and Stroud in Glasgow where, as a shop steward, he set up the most efficient socialist network seen on Clydeside.

After an unsuccessful attempt at fruit farming in Somerset, he took up a post in 1953 as works manager at the engihe was hrought up in Ab- neering firm, Richards & Timmins, and moved his young family to Hartlepool. When, within months, the firm became yet another victim of the 1950s recession, he and Mar-



Wason: true to his beliefs

gherita became bus conductors for West Hartlepool Corporation Transport - the North-East's most overqualified "clippies". Roly went on to drive a bus for five years from 1953, and delighted his passengers, particularly the children, with stories, poems and jokes colourfully recounted in

his book Busman's View (1958). Roly and Margherita Watson returned to teaching for the last 15 years of their working lives, first at the Frederick Natrass School in Norton-on-Tees, then at Stevenage College, before retiring to Somerset. Here Roly concluded his theory of the lessons to be learned from patterns that have occurred on at least balf a dozen occasions through the history of civilisation. as told in his parables, The Sons tope, particularly the Soviet bloc, of War, which have not yet been published. He was beginning to communicate this message to his correspondeots on the Internet on his first computer, which he acquired on his 90th birthday.

### John Cooper

John Cooper, Islamic scholar: born Brighton, East Sussex 24 August 1947; E.G. Browne Lecturer in Persian Studies, Cambridge University 1990-98; died Rheims, France 9 January 1998.

John Cooper, E.G. Browne Lecturer in Persian Studies at Cambridge University for the past eight years, had diverse interests rare for an academic. Not unly was he accomplished in physiology and psychology, he later studied philosophy, mysticism and theology - and he had an exceptional command of Persian and Arabic to boot. As

complicated typesetting for Oxford University, especially in Persian and Arabic material. Above all, he was a classical scholar in the tradition of the Islamic philosopher ibn Sina Avicceni,

Cooper graduated in 1970 from St John's College, Oxford, in Psychology and Physiology. For five years he was the director of English language studics at International House, a language school in Casahlanca, Morocco, and then did similar work in Iran at an army technical school. In 1976 he moved to Ahwaz, also in Iran, where he lectured in physiology at the university. He began to learn Arabic and Persian and devel-- Gerald Jacobs a typographer he undertook oped an interest in Islamic phi-

losophy which took him in 1977 to the holy city of Qorn, the centre of Islamic learning in Iran.

There he studied with prominent Shia Islamic scholars including Ayatollah Dr Mehdi Haeri-Yazdi, the son of the founder of the Theological School in Qom, and lectured in English at the Islamic University (Dar al-Tabligh) founded io the 1970s by Grand Ayatollah Sayyed Kazim Shariatmadari. He also acted, in a voluntary capacity, as an interpreter to Shariatmadari. It was at this time that Cooper embraced Shia Islam.

After his return from Iran. Cooper held a number of posts, including a two-year fellowship at the British Institute of Per-

in 1990 heing appointed Camhridge. He became a member of the Governing Council of the British Institute of Persian Studies and also the general editur of the Islamic Encyclopaedia. He was the author of the twovolume A Manual of Islamic Beliefs and Practice (1990) and the forthcoming Islam and Modernity: Muslim Intellectuals Respond. Among his translations is al-Tabari's Commentary on the Qur'an (volume i, 1987).

sian Studies (1982-84), before

John Cooper had an instinctive wisdom which illuminated his students and those who worked with him. He was extremely affahle and approachable.

Zahra Seif-Amirhosseini

minister of India twice, first tri died in 1966.

Gulzarilal Nanda, politician, when Jawaharlal Nehru died in died Ahmadabad, India 16 Jan- office in 1964, and again when uary, aged 99. Interim prime his successor Lal Bahadur Shas-

#### BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

#### **DEATHS**

JOHNSTONE: Marguerite, formerly of Hurpenden, aged 83, peacefully at Capwell Grange Nursing Home, Luion. Widow of Maurice, beloved mother of Primrose and David, Funeral at Garston Crematorium Eriday 30 Incurs 2007. Friday 30 January 3pm. Donations to cancer research.

Announcements for Gazotte BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London EM SDL, telephoned to 077-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, 293 2012 (24-hour answ and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcenents (notices, functions, Forthcom ing marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at (10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

#### Changing of the Guard

TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mount ed Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham, TO-MORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, filam; Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

#### Forthcoming marriages

Mr T. J. Keer and Ms J. L. Gallant

The engagement is announced between Tim. son of the late Major John Keer and of Mrs Patrick Jackson, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Jeri, elder daughter of Mr Norman Gallant, of Southfield, Michigan, USA, and of Mrs Sylvia Goldfarb, of Bingham Farms, Michigan.

#### **Birthdays**

Mr Ernest Borgnine, actor, 81; Lt-Gen Sir Anthony Denison-Smith, former GOC, 4th Division, 56; Mr Neil Diamond, singer and songwriter, 57; Mr Bamber Gascoigne, author and quizmaster, 63; Miss Nastassja Kinski, actress, 37; Dr Desmone Morris, zoologist, 70; Sir Donald Murray, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, Supreme Court of Northern Ire-land, 75; Dr Ian Oliver, Chief Constable, Grampian, 58; Miss Jane Somerville, consultant physician, 65; The Most Rev John Aloysius Ward, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cardiff, 69; Air Commodore Sir Archie Winskill, former captain of the Queen's Flight, 81.

#### **Anniversaries**

Births: Edith Newbold (Jones) Wharton, novelist, 1862. Deaths: Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, statesman, 1965. On this day: the first train passed over the Forth Bridge, 1890. Today is the Feast Day of St Babylas of Antioch, St Felician

#### FAITH & REASON

### Gunmen sheltering in the shadow of the Cross

It is no good for the churches in Northern Ireland to wring their hands over sectarian killings, says Paul Handley, Editor of the Church Times. The violence is their fault.

Last week was a pretty spectacular week for Christian unity. On Monday the Irish National Liberation Army and (prohably) the Ulster Freedom Fighters acted in concert. They both killed somebody. Just to prove this wasn't a fluke, on Wednesday they did it again.

Of course, Christianity is not the sole, nor even the chief, reason wby a carpet salesman, a taxi driver and three others now lie dead, but it is deeply implicated in any sectarian act in Northern Ireland. If the gunmen aren't adherents, their parents most likely are, and their neighbours, and the various people who formed their character and opinions. And if, by the slightest chance, none of these had the mainland, that the violence should have been stopped long agu. Not, on balance, a good moment,

then, in the history of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which this is. It is 90 years since the idea of a such a week was first tried out, and you would be forgiven for asking what, if anything, all those prayers for all those years had achieved. But never mind the 90 years: the search for Christian unity stretches back nearly 2,000 years, to those awkward commands of Jesus and Paul which suggest (to paraphrase) that any team which can't handle unity is heading fur relegation. It's not Kenny Dalglisb who should be worried about keeping his job, but George Carey, John Paul II and all the rest.

For an aide-memoire to those hihlical sayings, one need only look down the list of texts chosen by the ecumenical group which prepares study material for Christian unity week. 1967 ~ "Called to one hope"; 1970 - "We are fellow workers for been touched by faith, there are so God": 1984-"Called to be one": 1989

many believers in the province and on - "One body in Christ"; 1990 - "That they all may be one". Why does this make such de-

pressing reading? Because if everybody had taken the first week seriously, they wouldn't have needed any more. The text for 1996 was "Behold, 1 stand at the door and knock." It doesn't seem to have occurred to anybody that Christ might actually like a door or two to be opened.

It would be unfair to suggest that nothing has happened. There are now hundreds of examples of local churches of different denominations sharing huildings and resources. sometimes even ministers. Even so, at the national and international level, the churches really aren't any closer together. Su many of the stories one hears about local co-operation are appended with the plea: "but don't tell the bishup/arcbdeacon/powers that be". And while people are being shot simply because they happen to be Catholics or Protestants, such acts of getting institutions to merge. They can ecumenical politeness look pretty

The Church's disunity makes me

think of a milkman. For years he has saving souls, and can point to all the been delivering milk to the same enthusiastic new people they have atstreet, patiently and with resignation putting up with his customers' changing tastes in bottles, cartons, silver-, red-, gold- and blue-top. Their grumhles persist, however, and provoke a couple of neighbours at the end of the street to start smashing each other's bottles on the doorstep. Fortunately for the Church, the milkman will continue to call for as long as somebody in the street wants him ("Bebold, 1 stand at the door and ring for your order"). But having seen the antics of his customers - the grumblers as well as the bottle-smashers - is it any wonder that newcomers to the street are taking their coffee black? And then there are the people who

huy their milk from a supermarket, There are now many churches which thrive partly because they refuse to get involved in the confused, timeconsuming, unrewarding business of demonstrate the beneficial effect of for it. concentrating all their efforts into the real task of the Church, which is

tracted. And as long as the mainstream churches are so half-hearted about unity, these exclusive brethren cannot be contradicted. .

This is a paradox, since their response to disunity is so far from being a solution that it is actually the problem. No church separates itself from others because it thinks itself worse than they are but because it wants to be superior; this is the root cause of sectarianism. And sectarianism, cross-fertilised with the wrong cultural, social and political elements, leads to violence.

And so we return to the situation in Northern Ireland and the matter of Christian culpability. For all their band-wringing, it is only when the Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Churches are working more seriously for unity that they can legitimately pray for an end to the killing. Until then, they should apologise

· 'Faith & Reason' is edited by Paul Vallely

21/SHARES

### Wason

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### A dismal week for Rank as a catalogue of woe unfolds

MARKET REPORT



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1-4

47.

DEREK PAIN

Its been a dismal week for the the shares sliding 48.75p to although BT was on a party merging its dairy operation. chief executive Andrew Teare. On Monday the shares were 343p: yesterday they fell 17p (after 21.5p) to 307.25p, lowest

since 1994. The group has been battered by negative weekend comments and a profits warning from Planet Hollywood, a rival to its Hard Rock Cafe chain. Then came the bingo discomfort of First Leisure and the off-tune profits warning from EMI, the showbiz group.

comes on top of growing stock market doubts about the direction of the bingo to cinema group. Next month it is due to derlined by lower fourth quarproduce year's profits - ter profits from Shell's US around £298m is the consen- arm. Shell fell 16p to 487.5p sus. Such a figure would com- and British Petroleum 33p to pare favourably with the previous year's depressed to 514p but Lasmo, again £65m but represent little buoved by takeover hopes. progress on a few years ago.

Rank leisure group and its 430p, is the latest illustration of the Far Eastern turmoil cutting into profits. Earlier this week Diageo, the international drinks cocktail created by the GrandMet merger with Guinness, mouned about the Asian impact on sales. Its

They started the week at 565p. The Tiger turmoil, weak oil shares and a poor New York display on worries about the future of the Clinton administration combined to crode The catalogue of woe Footsie, which ended 71.7

shares fell 21.5p to 530p.

points down at 5.181.4. Oils continued to suffer from weak crude prices, un-746p. Enterprise Oil lost 15p

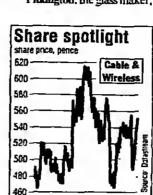
restricted its fall to 1p at 249p. Telecoms buzzed again line of its own, falling 14p to 569p after Thursday's excitement. In early trading the price touched 597.5p.

Turnover was again brisk. Orange put on 3.5p to 296.25p and Cable and Wireless, on hopes of a BT strike. rose 18.5p to 552p. COLT Telecom, spurred by Salomon Smith Barney interest jumped 160p. 59p to 870p.

Burton, the retailing group, actually went for the proverhial Burton when the market closed with the shares up 5.25p to 151.25p. On Monday trading starts in the demerged husinesses, Arcadia, the collection of high street shops. and the Debenhams department stores chain. SG Securities forecasts Arcadia producing profits of £82m this year and Debenhams £136m.

Northern Foods ended 8p higher at 288p after confirmCadbury Schweppes edged forward 7.5p to 699.5p, still re-

flecting its Coca-Cola deal. Some hard hit shares bounced. BTR struggled off its year's low with a 5.5p gain to 157.5p. Supporting hopes that the worst may be over were a number of late deals, one a purchase of 3.87 million shares, at



and bewildered Laura Ashley added 5.5p to 34p compared with the 20p touched after the threadbare figures appeared. Oasis Stores rallied 25.5p to 150p; a year ago the shares

were 421.5p. Financial shares managed scattered gains. Northern Rock improved 3.5p to 612p ahead of next week's results. Pilkington, the glass maker, Halifax closed 27p higher at an 829p peak after touching 841p.

Shield Diagnostic jumped 105p to 777.5p; it has, after weeks of rumours, at last signed a licensing agreement for its AFT heart attack test 927 per cent interest. with US drugs group Abbot Laboratories. There are suggestions that Shield's royalty from each AFT test could be around 75p.

Morgan Crucible, the engineering group, fell 4p to 412.5p as profits downgrades appeared. Charterhouse

rose 5p to 111.5p, and battered up to 10 per cent because of the group's exposure to Korea and Thailand. It is looking for £111.9m for last year and

> £116m this year. Weather Action hardened 2.5p to 82.5p after confirming it is in expansion talks. It said it was negotiating to create a "new weather service in association with a major US operation".

Delyn, a little property group, put on 2.5p to 117.5p as Apollo Sales & Marketing lifted its stake to 23.57 per cent, huying 776,000 shares. On Thursday merehant banker Dawnay Day took a

**Telewest Communications** shaded to 78.5p after US West said it was thinking of increasing its 27 per cent stake in the British cable operator.

Aromascan, the electronic nose concern, firmed 2p to 13.5p. The 4.9 per cent stake sold this week was largely picked up by a private client stockbroker.

TAKING STOCK

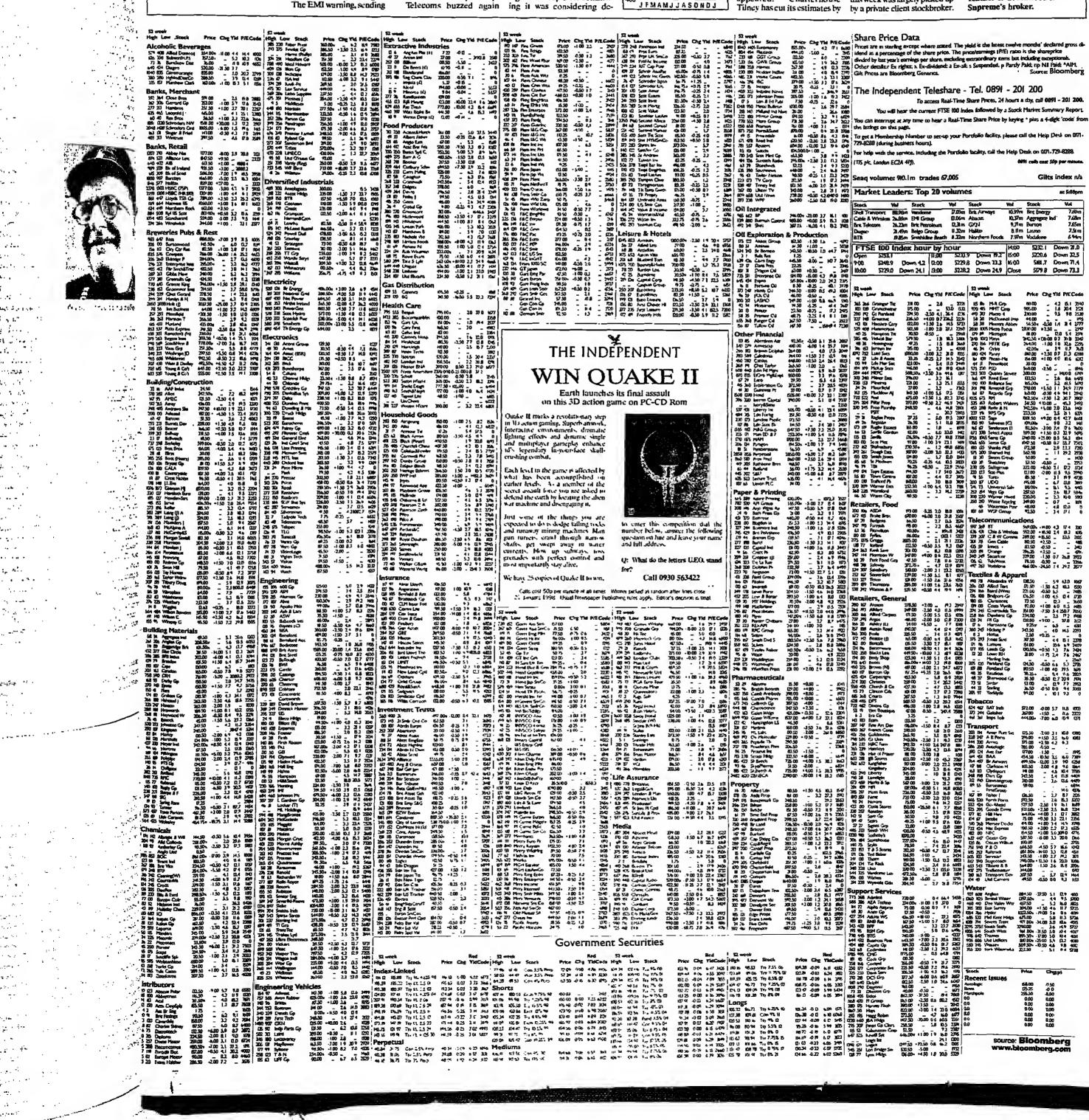
Sanctuary, a management company in heavy rock music, tuned into the stock market after backing into quoted investment company Burlington. The shares closed at 24.5p against the 20p new shares were issued to raise £5.3m. Warrants handed out as part of the revamp ended at 7p. Sanctuary runs 20 heavy metal and rock music acts. It also has a television production company. It owns 61 per cent of AIM-listed Sanctuary Music, unchanged at 67.5p.

Ofex continues to attract recruits. Renaissance Editions, handling metal sculptures and medallions, hopes to raise £1.5m by offering shares at 10p and Supreme Plastics is raising £266,500, selling shares at 65p. Ellis & Partners is stockbroker to Renaissance: Teather & Greenwood is Sppreme's broker.

To access Real-Time Share Prices, 24 hours a day, call 0891 - 201 200.

source: Bioomberg





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## Revenue says sorry for sending out tax bills a week before payment deadline

The Inland Revenue yesterday issued its first apology over its new self-assessment system, admitting it was still sending out tax bills a week before the final deadline for payment. Andrew Verity reports.

Accountants estimate that hundreds of thousands of taxpayers are still awaiting tax bills - even though they sent in their tax

tember. If payments are not made by 31 January, the Revenue will demand a surcharge worth 5 per cent of the tax owed.

The Revenue promised last year that taxpayers who returned their forms by that date would get a tax hill before 31 Januplaints that taxpayers are being left with too little time to pay their bills.

tention that they should have them for the beginning of this month."

The Revenue said it was reviewing its arrangements for posting material en masse in the future. It claims the problem is confined to tax agents who have clients' affairs.

There are an estimated 3 million people "If taxpayers are still receiving tax bills we sessment forms and the Revenue forecasts cutting things a bit fine."

returns by the first deadline, on 30 Sep- apologise for that because it was our in- that up to 1.3 million may face surcharges. But evidence from taxpayers suggests

those who sent in tax forms before 30 September are also getting their tax bills late. They face interest on their tax bill as well as a 5 per cent surcharge.

Chas Rov-Chowdhury, senior officer at ary. But there are now widespread com- promised to handle every detail of their the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants, said: "A lot of people who got their tax hills in before 30 September are A spokeswoman for the Revenue said: who have still not yet returned their as-still only getting their tax hills now. It is

The Association of Certified Chartered Accountants yesterday wrote to the Inland Revenue urging officials to show flexibility when payments were late. "The matter has been dealt with in a less than expeditious manner. We want to know where the Revenue stands on late payments resulting from the delays," said Mr Roy-

The Revenue spokeswoman said taxpayers were free to appeal if they were surcharged for being late with their first

payment. But there would he no waiving of interest charges for being late. "If a taxpayer feels there is some reason why we should have got to them sooner they can make an appeal against any cost being levied. But the fact that they don't have their tax hill need not mean they cannot make the payment," she said.

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The Revenue admitted it had problems with its computer system for processing selfassessment accounts, designed by American computer giant EDS.

### **Growth slows but** interest rate picture remains uncertain

The economy slowed more than expected as 1997 drew to a close, according to preliminary official figures. Yet even with the leading "dove" on the Monetary Policy Committee sounding the alarm about Asian spillovers, the jury was still out on interest rates, says Diane Coyle, **Economics Editor.** 

National output rose by just 0.5 per cent in the final quarter of 1997, slowing from its 0.8 per cent gain the previous quarter to a pace close to the long-run trend. The forecast was for 0.6 per cent. The economy grew 3.3 per cent in the year as a whole, compared with 2.6 per cent in 1996, the Office for National Statistics said.

"The figures are frustratingly inconclusive as far as the interest rate debate is concerned," said Kevin Gardiner, an economist at Morgan Stanley.

Analysts were fairly evenly split about the chance of a quarter-point increase in the John Lewis, the department ese government would soon cost of borrowing from the present level of 7.25 per cent in February or March. Although some indicators of growth are pointing down, there is enough evidence of pending inflationary pressure to sow uncertainty.

This was not dispersed by DeAnne Julius, who confirmed her reputation as the most doveish member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee on interest rates by suggesting that the Asian crisis could trim UK growth by 0.5 to 0.75 per cent. Although it is suggested she will be arguing strong sales in furnishings, with against a rate rise in the meeting on 4-5 February, many City experts were surprised at the gloominess of ber view.

Her comments came as the Treasury announced that Asia will be high on the agenda of

the meeting of G7 finance min-

The financial meltdown

in the Far East has taken

its toll on CD and record

sales from Bangkok to

Peking. Andrew Yates finds

that the fall in sales has

music giant whose stable

and the Beatles, in a spin.

According to EMI, music sales

in the Far East have fallen by up

to 10 per cent in the last few

months as the economic turmoil

has brought financial ruin to

thousands and caused con-

Asian trading troubles would

knock £25m off profits for the

year to March. Part of this hit

comes from writing off the ad-

which the group will now strug-

Simon Duffy, EMI's fi-

nance director, said yester-

day: "This has taken us and

everybody else by surprise.

The market in Asia is still de-

are no obvious signs of recov-

gle to recover.

vances paid to local artists in the UK and country and west-

clining at the moment. There fair and misleading."

EMI warned yesterday that

sumer spending to slump.

put EMI, the British

of recording artists

include the Spice Girls

at forthcoming EU meetings.

Gordon Brown, Chanceldirector of the International Monetary Fund, asking him to attend an EU finance ministers' meeting. Hc wrote: "European countries have a very substantial interest in the successful resolution of the current financial difficulties in Asia."

Mr Brown also put forward some ideas for handling future crises, including promoting more transparency in economic data and paying more attention to financial stability in emerging markets. He wrote: "I bope we might begin to draw some lessons for the future from what bas happened."

Ms Julius, the only member of the MPC to bave come from industry, said in her BBC radio interview yesterday: "Given the strong state of the economy at present, that's nowhere near recession levels."

She also downplayed alarmist fears about deflation, saying: "It's too early to declare

evidence yesterday that con- coolomy. spending in the run-up to Christmas in order to bunt for bargains in the winter sales.

In the week ending 17 January, the group's department stores increased sales by 12.7 per cent on the same week the previous year. Like many retailers. John Lewis saw a late surge in spending in the final days before Christmas but has seen a significant uptura in trading since. Last week was dominated by carpets and furniture, growing strongly. Audio and televisions also did well as did fitted kitchens. Sales at Waitrose, John Lewis' supermarket group, saw sales increase by 6.3 per cent

**EMI** blames sales downturn

ery and it could get worse."

EMI bas also been forced to

merge some of its recording la-

bels in the area which will bring

430p as analysts rushed to cut

forecasts on growing concerns

about the long-term impact of

the Far East crisis Dresdner

Kleinwort Benson has cut its

pre-tax forecast from £332m to

£305m for the year to March

and to £315m from £342m for

the following year. "EMI al-

ready warned of problems in the

Far East last year but this is

much worse than expected,"

EMI in the UK and America

where it claims to have had a

good year despite a slow down

in sales across the industry. It

had the number one Christmas

album both sides of the Atlantic

with The Verve top of the pops

em star Garth Brooks heading

the chart in the US. EMI also

dismissed suggestions that the

Spice Girls had seen their best

days. "They have had another

Outstanding year and reports

that suggest their demise are un-

However, Mr Duffy ac-

There was better news from

said one industry analyst.

EMI's shares fell 48.75p to

local redundancies.

in the week to 17 January.

isters and central bankers in that the hattle against inflation London next month, and also is over and that now the chief enemy is deflation."

Ms Julius' remarks followed lor of the Exchequer, wrore to
Michel Camdessus, managing

a speech by Eddie George,
Governor of the Bank of England, earlier in the week saying risks to growth from the Asian crisis were "heavily on the downside".

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, said: "I think there probably will not be a rise, but you can see it's going to be a very close decision."

Stephen Lewis, chief economist at Monument Derivatives, said the Asian factor had probably put all the G7 central banks on hold at least until after the meeting of finance ministers and central bankers late next month.

And David Hillier of Barclays Capital said: "DeAnne Julius is clearly not convinced of the need for a further rate rise, but she is probably in a minority."

The uncertainty was reflected in the markets, with the pound slightly weaker mainly due to the dollar. The US currency fell against the yen as hopes emerged that the Japanstore group, provided further move to boost the flagging

> Yesterday's preliminary estimates showed that service sector output picked up slightly during the three months, while manufacturing, energy supply and mining were all weaker. The ONS said the decline in manufacturing output was very small, whereas electricity, oil and gas output was markedly weaker because of the mild

> The fact that the official figures for manufacturing output were so subdued was regarded with caution, given the more upbeat signals from husiness surveys for December. On Thursday the British Chambers of Commerce reported that manufacturing deliveries and orders had actually risen in the final quarter of last year.

ignited rumours that the group

could prove an attractive bid tar-

get. "The more EMI's share

price falls the more it becomes

a much more attractive bid tar-

get. As the market slows the big

music groups must be baving a

closer look at cutting costs and

terday it was close to securing

the acquisition of Waterstone's

book chain from WH Smith in

tional, the US venture capital-

stake in the new music and

book retailer and receive a net

cash sum for injecting HMV

and Dillons.

EMI also confirmed yes-

joining forces."

Northern Foods is considering the demerger of its dairy operations in a move that could trigger further consolidation in Britain's declining doorstep delivery milk husiness. Analysts said the decision could be the final push for shareholder value by Christopher Haskins, Northern's chairman, who is due to retire in two years' time and could even

spark a hid for the company. Northern Foods said the demerger of its dairy business had been under consideration for

#### Northern Foods ponders dairy operations demerger

some time and was "currently in long-term decline and the on sales of £789m last year and at an advanced stage". The company said it had made the announcement following the recent rise in its share price.

Northern Foods has long said the UK dairy industry is in need of consolidation as the doorstop delivery business is

supply of milk to supermarkets is a cut-throat operation with

Analysts said Northern's dairy husiness could be worth £400-£500m as a separate publiely quoted company. The division made profits of £44.8m

is expected to improve profits to £60m this year. The company bas re-structured the

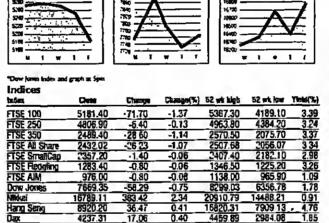
husiness, closing hottling plants and reducing capacity. "I think it is puzzling givon we have not seen any public debate about this," said

Mark Duffy at SBC Warburg Dillon Reed. "It is difficult to see what is driving the demerger argument."

It is possible that rival dairy groups may hid for Northern's dairy division abead of demerger. Some industry experts said a demerger could represent a "turning point" for Northern and for Mr Haskins, who has been at the company for 35 years.

Northern Foods shares closed 8p higher 288p. - Nigel Cope

#### STOCK MARKETS



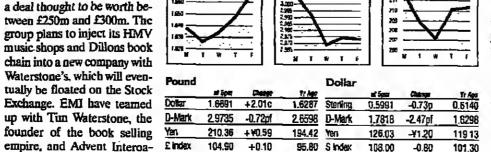
#### INTEREST RATES



#### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Card (b)	P Chips	Falls	Price (c)	(p)	F Cpfe
Colt Telecom	870.00	59.00	7.27	EMI Group	430.00		
Misy3	2142.50	130.00	6.46	Monument	74.50	-5.25	-6.58
St James Place	186.50	11.00	6.27	JBA Holdings	1107.5	-70	-5.94
Logica	1397.50	72.50	5 47	Rank Group	307.25	-17	-5.24

#### CURRENCIES



#### OTHER INDICATORS ists. Mr Duffy confirmed that EMI would take a minority

* # \$ pe	Charac	Chg	Yr Ags		lades	Die	Yr ago	West Res
Brent Oil (\$)	14.48	0.10	22,77	GDP	113.90	3,10	110.48	Feb
Gold (\$)	297.95	7.20	352.00	RPI	160.00	3.60	154.44	Feb
Silver (\$)	5.83	0.25	4.73	Base F	ales	7.25	5.00	

#### Nycomed threatens legal action over CJD claims

Nycomed Amersham, the British healthcare giant, yesterday blasted the Hong Kong

authorities and media for spreading panic after they accused it of exposing hospital patients to the threat of infection with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), the human form of mad cow disease. Andrew Yates in London and Stephen Vines in

Hong Kong report.

Nycomed is considering legal action over suggestions that one of its products bad encouraged the spread of CJD. The problem arose after traces of possible contamination were lound in the fluid given to more than 100 patients undergoing scans and gastric tests for heart and lung diseases. Seven of these people have since died. Nycomed withdrew the

Pulmonate kits after it suspected that they could contain blood extracted from a CJD victim which was mixed in with other blood to form albumin.

This is a protein extracted from blood which is part of the liquid injected in patients to assist in tests for various heart and lung diseases. However it is still not known bow exactly CJD is transmitted and there is no known case of transmission through blood. A Nycomed spokesman said:

"There is no evidence that CJD can be transmitted by blood. There is not the remotest possibility that these seven people could have died of CJD even if our products were riddled with it. This has caused damage to us and is quite without foundation. We are lining up the lawyers."

Nycomed's shares fell 25p to 2370p yesterday after the story

broke in Hong Kong overnight. It remains unclear bow the contaminated blood came to be used in the kits but it is more than likely that the blood donor was unaware of the infection. The kits tween July and December of last year. None of the patients have reported signs of illness.

The Hong Kong anthorities did emphasise that the warning to patients who have used the kits was "purely a precautionary measure". The amount of CJD contamination was notproven, they said, and there was an extremely low chance of infection. Nevertheless they decided to go public "after balancing patients' rights 10 know and the possibility of causing undue anxiety to them".

Nycomed is highly critical of the decision. We regret the public alarm in Hong Kong. It has probably caused a greater threat to public health than could ever be caused by our products and CJD," said the spokesman.

When CJD takes hold it causes fatal nervous disorders and more than 20 people in Britain have already died from this illness. However the incuhadon period for CJD is 10 years, and it can take up to 30 years to develop.

#### SBC and UBS may have to rethink terms

Speculation was mounting last night that Swiss Bank Corporation and Union Bank of Switzerland may be forced to renegotiate the terms of their £36bn merger because of the scale of UBS's trading losses.

UBS is estimated to have made losses of up to £800m last year and is heavily exposed to the collapse in Asian markets. As rumours that the deal will have to be renegotiated swept the market yesterday, shares in both banks fell.

A spokesman for UBS, Gertrud Erismann, insisted that the deal could not be renegotiated. "The merger agreement is signed and cannot be renegotiated," she said, adding that shareholders would be asked to vote on the proposals as they stood early next month.

However, sources within

SBC suggested that some form of renegotiation was inevitable. given the scale of the losses. A London-hased Société

Générale trader said: "I would not be surprised if they renegotiated their merger terms, as I've heard they have both made considerable losses in Asia. Both hanks seem to be trying to hide these losses within the merger details."

The merger would create the fourth largest bank in the world with assets of £330bn, funds under management worldwide of \$920hu, and 56,000 staff. However, it will also entail 3.000 job losses within the two groups' investment banking divisions in London.

Although the chairman of the merged bank will he Mathias Cabiallavetta, president of UBS, the merger is

being widely viewed as more of a takeover by SBC. This impression was reinforced earlier this week when the two banks announced 80 senior management positions in London, of which only a quarter were filled by UBS employees.

UBS lost £90m on derivatives trading in the first half of last year bul its losses are thought to have escalated dramatically in the second six. months, particularly as the meltdown spread among the

Tiger economies of East Asia. The two banks are now looking for a new name for the merged business, having abandoned plans to call it the United: Bank of Switzerland. The name was dropped after the discovery that another bank with a similar name already exists.

- Michael Harrison -

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# 23/BUSINESS

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**JEREMY** WARNER ON JAN LESCHLY'S EGO. WHY IT PAYS TO OWN 'SLATE' MAGAZINE AND THE CURSE OF ALASTAIR **MORTON** 

### Is it logic or ego that drives the urge to merge?

There's not much that occurs in husiness which is genuinely new, and certainly the emergence of the truly global corporation isn't an especially modern phenomenon. Ever since the formation of the first oil multinationals in the pre-war years, there have been concerns about the power and influence of these gigantic corporations.

None the less, until quite recently the global mega-corporation has been confined to a relatively small number of industries - oil and automobiles being the obvious examples. Not so any longer. With globalisation has come pressure for consolidation to create a small number of dominant world players across a whole range of other husinesses. Virtually no industry is immune to it.

The latest example is this week's disclosure of merger talks between Smithkline Beecham and American Home Products to create a new pharmaceuticals and healthcare products goliath on a par with the world's largest, Merck of the US. The industrial logic of these things is as a rule hard to fault; increased size brings competitive advantage across a battery of different costs. With size also comes greater marketing clout and, in the case of pharmaceuticals, enhanced research and development spending, which increases the company's chances of discovery.

All the same, is it not as much ego, management aggrandisement and empire building as industrial and commercial logic which is driving the urge to merge? In this particular case, that seems a real possihility. Jan Leschly, chief executive of smithkline Beecham, is a restless gonificance since the idea of increasing returns. getter, filled with energy and amhinon and he's intent on becoming the world's number one player in his field.

American Home Products undoubtedhas a succession problem which Mr Leschly could equally undoubtedly solve, but AHP is also a very different sort of company. The consistent earnings growth it has managed to deliver over the years is a result not of organic growth, as with most health-care companies, but of acquisition and a rigid, centralised attention to costs.

In the 1950s. AHP was the higgest company of its type in the world, but then a gentle process of erosion began to set in. Successive attempts at reversing it through acquisition have failed to correct the problem. With Smithkline Beecham, AHP sees the possibility of a fresh transfusion of high red corpuscle blood. The two purposes -AHP's need for new blood and Mr Leschly's amhition to be number one seem to dovetail neatly but are these really the sort of motives to produce a worldbeater. Mr Leschly is just as likely to end up with a case of transplant rejection as the athletic super-champion he wants.

One of those wonderfully obscure professorial squabbles has broken out in the world of American academia over who deserves credit for a particular economic theory in this instance the theory of "increasing reand the closely related concept of "network externalities", forms the theoretical basis of the US Justice Department's anti-trust case against Microsoft.

It was reported recently in the New Yorker magazine that the idea came originally from one Brian Arthur, a littleknown Stanford economist. For years, the New Yorker claimed, Mr Arthur struggled to get his views heard; because the theory seemed to conflict with the mainstream US view that free markets are always selfcorrecting, he became a pariah, his views were obstinately opposed and he spent much of his career in the wilderness.

Baloney, says Paul Krugman, professor of economics at MIT, in the latest edition of Slate, a virtual magazine published over the internet. In fact the idea of increasing returns is as old as the hills, with a long academic history in which - surprise - Mr Krugman plays a part. According to Mr Krugman, it is nonsense to argue, as the New Yorker does, that Mr Arthur's work was so revolutionary that he was shut out of the academic establishment.

Of the two accounts, Mr Krugman's seems the more believable; the idea of increasing returns, like a lot of economics, is in the end just common sense. It is incredible that such a powerful concept was not in any way researched or explored before Mr Arthur stumbled across it. The theory adds up to simply this: goods become cheaper the

Who will be in EMU? The financial markets' view

The closer other countries get to the desired baseline (Germany) the more likely they are to join EMD.

TOWARDS EMU: If the line moves towards the German base line it means

a single currency with Germany in 10 years' time.

the fine will thove away from the base

The Independent asked analysts from:

investors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bands compared to German ones, because they are confident the currency won't

devalue against the mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked into

AWAY FROM EMU: However, if they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher inflation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the mark, then they wilk demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so

When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

Nikko Europe, Peine Webber, ABN Amro, JP Morgan, Deutsche Morgan Grentell

Salomon Brothers, Goldman Sacks, HSBC James Capel, UBS

what probability they placed on EMU starting on time.

Probability EMU starts on time:

Probability EMU never happens

Probability EMU is delayed.

more of them you produce. Furthermore, some products, like fax machines or telephones, become more useful the more ople who use them. Well there's a thing.

The reason the theory is important in the Bill Gates case is that Microsoft seems to be an example of how this process might allow companies operating at the forefront of technology to establish a monopoly to the detriment of the consumer and technological advance. The more people who use Microsoft's PC operating systems, the more everyone else has to. Microsoft has cleverly used this snowball effect to become the industry standard. You have to use Microsoft to be fully compatible with everyone else. even though there might be better and cheaper alternatives in prospect. The free market is not meant to operate in that way. but plainly it can do if left to its own devices.

But hold on a moment. Mr Krugman's complaint seems to go beyond that of plagiarism. The fact that the New Yorker has got it wrong about Mr Arthur's copyright, he suggests, rather undermines the whole article, which like a lot of what's written about Mr Gates these days, was broadly anti-Microsoft.

Indeed, the very theory of increasing returns is a contentious one. Mr Krugman argues. When Mr Arthur began peddling the concept "he seemed unaware of the conceptual difficulties that had led economists not to ignore but to downplay the idea". So there you are; the theory is disreputable anyway and as a result might be de grace for this troubled project.

doing real harm by discrediting good economics and promoting duhious policies.

All this must be music to the ears of Bill Gates, who is a big fan of Slate, which curiously for someone so computer-literate, he downloads on to paper before reading. But then this is hardly surprising, for Mr Gates owns Slate magazine. It costs him about \$10m a year to push out over the net. Cheap at the price, you might say.

I was intrigued to learn that John Prescott, the Transport Secretary, has hired Sir Alastair Morton, former co-chairman of Eurotunnel, as a consultant to advise on how to get the Channel Tunnel high speed rail link huilt without digging even deeper into the public purse than the Government already is. Sir Alastair is certainly well qualified for the role; against all the odds, be got the Channel Tunnel huilt, and without costing the taxpayer a penny.

Regrettably, Sir Alastair's legendary talent for persuading the City and the international banking community to part with huge amounts of money for uneconomic endeavours could prove a handicap. Obviously he knows all the tricks. But by the same token it would be naive to think the City hasn't learned from the Eurotunnel experience. No banker, it is said only half in jest, will these days meet with Sir Alastair without checking his wallet afterwards. His association with the rail link could well prove the final coup

### Wiggins plan aims to launch international airport in Kent

Plans emerged yesterday for a new cut-price European air service, aimed at taking on airlines such as Easylet and Debonair, Andrew Yotes looks at an ambitious plan to transform a disused airbase in Kent into an international transport hub.

Wiggins, the property developer, is planning to create its new airline business at Manston airport near Margate. It has already embarked upon a £1bu redevelopment of the site which could bring more than 10,000 jobs to the area.

Manston is the RAF base where Barnes Wallace developed the famous houncing bomb during the Second World War. However, it has hardly been used over the last 15 years and Wiggins bought the lease to the airport terminal and adjoining 40 acres of land last July. In the process it acquired the sole rights to fly civil-

Now the Ministry of Defence has put the whole of the airport up for sale and it emerged yesterday that Wiggins is the frontrunner to huy the complex.

Oliver Iny, the chief executive of Wiggins, does not plan to stop there. "We want to create a network of European airports. We have already held airports within the next six months," he said yesterday.

Wiggins is already in talks with several major tour operators, including Thomson, about establishing cheap flights to the Continent and hopes to attract freight operators to the airport. The new breed of cheap airline groups have hardly scratched the surface of the potential market. We have partners with deep pockets," Mr Jny said,

Those partners include Siemens and Thomson-ASF, the German and French electronic giants, which will help finance, equip and run the airports.

Wiggins' hig amhitions are not restricted to Europe. Mr

ian aircraft into the airport. In has recently travelled to the US and is in talks with operators about acquiring regional airports over there.

Wiggins already owns 400 acres next to the airport complex, where it is constructing a huge husiness park. Cummins, the US diesel engineer, has already set up a new factory on the land and several more tenserious talks with a number of ants are close to signing up. people and hope to sign up six Wiggins is in the process of landscaping the new site by building new roads, two huge lakes and planting hundreds of chestnut trees.

Separately, Wiggins said it was pursuing an £8m legal claim against Brent Council. It claims the north London borough has frustrated its attempt to huild a leisure complex at the site of an old swimming pool at Kingsbury, near Wembley.

Wiggins has also submitted a planning application to create a large leisure complex in Liverpool. Wiggins appounced that

pre-tax profits more than douhled to £1.1m in the six months to September. Its shares rose 0.25p to 12.5p.

#### Experts back 87% chance of EMU on time

A week of "being nice to Italy" led economists to give firmer odds on a punctual monetary union. The Independent's panel of experts now believe there is an 87 per cent likelihood of European monetary union being launched on I January 1999.

Economists said a Monday meeting of EU finance ministers calmed worries about Italy's national debt. At 120 per cent of GDP, Italy's deht is double that required by the Maastricht criteria.

Ministers made favourable remarks about Italy's economy in an effort to repair any damage caused by negative remarks from the Netherlands. The Netherlands government had questioned Italy's ability to stay within the Maastricht rules.

Hans Tietmeyer, chairman of the Bundesbank, moved to quell speculation he was opposed to Italy's entry. Last weekend, in an interview with the German magazine Focus, he expressed doubts about the suitability of "highdebt" countries. He later said he had no specific country in mind.

Julian Jessop, economist a Nikko Europe, said the euro currency would be undermined if politicians ignored the evidence about Italy.

A spokesman for GWR declined to

comment on the news, which came on

the day that final bids for Melody Ra-

dio were submitted to Hanson, the

building materials group which has put

it up for sale. Although Hanson did not

disclose the number of offers it had re-

ceived, GWR's withdrawal is thought

to leave three serious bidders in the race

Emap, Scottish Radio and Chrysalis.

- Peter Thal Larsen

- Andrew Verity

#### Lucas sells starter and alternator businesses

Lucas Varity, the engineering group, has it sold its heavy-duty starter and alternator manufacturing husiness, based in the UK, and its light-duty starter and alternator husinesses in South Africa and Argentina to Prestolite Electric Inc for an initial £25.4m. Up to £11.4m will be payable on a contingent basis. Under the terms of the sale, PEI will acquire the assets of Lucas Heavy Duty Products, the share capital of Lucas South Africa and shares in Lucas Indiel, Argentina. In the year to January, sales of the three husinesses totalled £80m and their pre-tax profit was £3m.

#### Card Clear buys HTEC

Card Clear, the credit card payment and fraud prevention group, is to buy HTEC Group, a supplier of retail loyalty systems, for about £24.5m in a mixture of cash, shares and loan notes. The acquisition is being made by means of a reverse takeover. The company also announced that pre-tax profit in the 11 months to 30 November rose to £1.73m from £1.08m.

#### Canadian banks merge

Royal Bank of Canada is huying Bank of Montreal for C\$17.69ha (£7.38ha), stunning a clubby hanking community that has been shielded from the wave of mergers sweeping the world's financial industry. Combining Canada's firstand third-biggest banking companies would create a financial institution with assets of C\$453h, ranking it third in North America behind Citicorp and Chase Manhattan of the US.

#### Airbus set for \$1.6bn order

Airhus Industrie is negotiating a \$1.6bn deal to supply United Airlines with up to 50 A320 narrow-bodied jets to replace ageing Boeing aircraft. The American carrier already has 45 Airbus jets in its fleet.

#### Dalgety sale expected

Dalgety, the petfoods husiness, is expected to announce the sale of its food ingredients husiness for around £300m early next week. The front-runners to huy it are Kerry Group and

#### US West in cable talks

US West Media Group yesteday confirmed it was in talks to increase its stake in Telewest Communications, the UK cable company, although no offer has yet heen made. US West International, the unit of US West Media that already owns 26.75 per cent of Telewest, wants huy the 10 per cent stakes held by Cox Communications and SBC Communications, industry sources said.

#### COMPANY RESULTS Turnover & Pre-tax & EPS Dividend (I) sootland 1.5m (5.45m) -0.174m (0.11m) -0.17p (0.01p) nil (nil) Card Clear (SP) 8.33m (5.75m) 1.73m (1.06m) 1 85p (1.23p) Wiggins Group (1) 9.63m (2.65m) 1.12m (0.505m) 0.16p (0.10p) WF Bactrical (I) 61.85m (55.01m) 3.64m (3.03m) 17.5p (14.3p) 4.70p (4.0p) (F) - Final (I) - Interim:

#### Molins chief executive resigns after troubled reign

e la machine manufacturer, yesterday parted company with chief executive Peter Harrisson after a tumultuous two-year period during which he presided over five profit warnings, revealed an accounting scandal at a US subaidiary, and watched Molins' shares lose two-thirds of their value

However, Michael Orr, Molins' chairman, said the decision did not imply Mr Harrisson was responsible for the company's recent troubles. We wouldn't seek to lay the hlame for any of the problems we've experienced at his door," he said. "They are more a question of collective

Molins, the cigarette and packaging responsibility as well as external

factors." He said the resignation was down to "a difference in management style". Mr Harrisson will continue to be available to the company on a consultancy basis for the next three

Mr Harrisson, who was on a twoyear contract earning £160,000 a year, will receive a payoff worth about £200,000. His share options are thought to be worthless.

Molins said Peter Grant, the finance director, will take on the chief executive's role "for the time being". However, he is also a candidate to fill the job permanently.

News of Mr Harrisson's departure prompted Molins shares to fall 12.5p said the resignation had nothing to -at least £5m more than most analysts do with trading conditions.

The process of finding a replace-

gun, and a list of candidates has been in the west of England and on the south drawn up. Analysts said a new face coast, felt the price had got too high. would reassure the City. "An outside The company is also believed to have appointment would be the best thing pulled out because, in the case of a suc-- Peter That Larsen to control.

to 270p, a five-year low. Brokers said GWR, the radio group, has pulled out the fall was prompted by fears that of the bidding for Melody Radio after his departure was a sign that more the auction for the "easy listening" bad news was on the way. But Mr Orr station pushed its sale price up to £25m

10%

had expected it to fetch. According to industry sources, ment for Mr Harrison has already be- GWR, which operates radio stations

The high price on offer for Melody will surprise the industry. Although the station has a large number of listeners, they fall into the older age ranges that are less attractive to advertisers.

(86% last week

(11% last week)

(3% last week)

GWR drops out of Melody Radio

auction as sale price reaches £25m

#### for Molins," one expert said. "But, cessful bid, it would have surpassed more than anything, they need an regulatory limits on the share of the appointment sooner rather than later." audience any radio operator is allowed

Will Carling's old club NEC Harlequins is on the receiving end of a tackle this week

vice and associated services" to Quins under an agreement dated 1 January 1997.

under the agreement. Quins agreed to pay tSG commission of 15 per cent of the net revenue received from sponsorship arranged by ISG, ISG say they are also due 15 per cent of the cash value of any goods exchanged in return for sponsorship rights

with Quins. enham, terminated the agreement with ISG on 31 July 1497.

involving the London Broncos, the rugby league club which paid to play on Quins' ground last year. ISG says it is "unable to ascertain the amounts that are currently due

to it from the defendant, without access to

the Defendant's books and records". The consultants are also claiming £5,287.50 for a report they prepared for Quins which they presented to the Club on 27 February 1997. ISG allege that "despite repeated requests for payment of the sums due ... the defendant has made no payment in respect of them".

ISG are being represented by Taylor Jovnson Garrett.

Oh to be a commercial lawyer. The Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) went bust six and a half years ago, but the amount of work for m'learned friends produced by the liquidation of the bank just seems to roll on and on.

I was reminded of this by the transfer this week from the Queen's Bench to the Chancery Division in the High Courts of 31 legal claims, totalling £30m, brought by the liquidators against ex-employees of the bank.

The liquidators Deloitte & Touche. led by Chris Morris, want the former employees to repay staff loans which the latter took out while working at the bank, before it was closed down by regulators. The solicitors Wilde Sapte originally lodged the writs on behalf of the liquidators several years ago.

Representatives of the ex-BCC1 employees brought their own action in the House of Lords late last year, claiming that they had been rendered unemployable by the "stigma" of their previous employment with the crashed hank, and therefore could not repay the monies demanded by the liquidators.

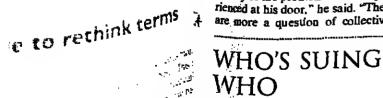
They won their claim of "stigma" in law, but have yet to win an action in court, or "in fact". And so the dispute rumbles on.

This pales rather besides the liquidators' other outstanding legal claims for \$3.5bn (£2.1bn) against Price Waterbouse. BCCI's former auditors, and another \$1.6bn against Ernst & Young, who were co-auditors until the mid 1980s.

Then there's the "Big One", as insiders call it: the liquidator's claim against the Bank of England for £600m on behalf of 10,000 UK depositors of BCCI. Mr Morris & Co. claim that the Bank is liable as a co-regulator of the crashed enterprise, and intend to take their claim to the House of Lords

Wilde Sapte and Dibb Lupton Alsop are representing the liquidators against the exemployees, while Lovell White Durrant is handling the big stuff aginst the accountants and the Bank.

Tim Bamford of Charles Russell rang me this week to say he is on the point of filing a full defence against allegations brought by the Ministry of Sound against his client Lynn Cosgrave, a former director of the south-east London rave warehouse. Ms Cosgrave recently left Jamie Palumbo's outfit to join a rival company. Stand by for more details of this dance floor dispute next week.



IOHN WILLCOCK



The Muppets are suing a London-based publishing company "for infringing the plaintiff's copyright in the artistic work Kermit". The Jim Henson Company, named after the late creator of the Muppet television

damages from Avalanche Publishing of 483 Green Lanes, Palmers Green, London, together with James Clynch and Giordano Corrado, of 69 Dunraven Drive, The Ridgeway, Enfield, Middlesex. Kermit is the figurehead to the whole Jim Henson group, a media business based in Melrose Avenue. Hollywood. The

solicitors acting for the Henson group in

characters, is seeking an injunction and

London are Harbottle & Lewis. The company's writ lodged in the High Court this week requests an injunction restraining the defendants from infringing the copyright on the lovable frog, and stopping them from "passing off or enabling. causing, assisting, procuring, licensing or authorising others to pass off any tohacco tins, posters or other products as being

licensed, authorised by or otherwise connected with the plaintiffs." "Tobacco tins," eh? Whatever would

Miss Piggy make of it?

from International Sports Group (ISG). a consultancy based at Mercury House. Knightsbridge, London. ISG says that it "provided marketing ad-

The consultants say in their writ that,

The club, based at The Stoop in Twick-

The writ goes on to claim commission

# Cathedrals of commuting revolutionise the old Tube



Foster's light: Part of Sir Norman Foster's £100m Canary Wharf station, another wonder-of-the-world-in-waiting, a 300m structure that will be reached by glass domes

Superlatives abound as London's Jubilee line extension gets set for the big drive south to link Canary Wharf and the Dome with the West End

open in autumn, which will squirt millions of passengers south and east of the present Underground network.

Europe's largest construction project, the line is a site for superlatives: the 116 escalators for the stations compare with a total of 243 on the entire existing Underground system. Westminster station, the crux of the project, will link the congested District and Circle lines and at 38m is the deepest building site in London. More astonishingly, Britain's tallest skyscraper - the 50-storey Canary Wharf Tower - is still some 50m short of the length of its JLE station. The line's inspiration lies in the Far

East. Its chief architect is Roland Paoletti, whose Hong Kong Metro revolutionised underground-station design. He and his architects, including the radical chic clique of Sir Norman Foster, William Al-sop and Michael Hopkins and young guns such as Chris Wilkinson, will produce an underground landscape that will be unrivalled by any other metro system around Conventional wisdom is that before the

Second World War London enjoyed the best-designed, most closely integrated

commuting replace the draughty, crumties was characterised by its scale and efof Dogs at Canary Wharf to the Millenthe-world-in-waiting. The 300m station, bling labyrinth of tunnels and ticketing halls ficiency and also by the architecture of that stain the memory of the travelling public. This is the first glimpse of the 10-mile, for the most part by Charles Holden, its £2.7bn Jubilee extension (JLE), due to apogee was Gants Hill. However, as Tube Alsop. Lyall & Stormer..is, at 400m long, ture 20 escalators. investment was shredded by subsequent governments, it looked as if the standards set by Holden would never be repeated. However, Mr Paoletti says be is not the inheritor of Holden's legacy. "Even with Holden, the thing was a labyrintb, an underground rabbit warren. Later on, it became an ad hoc thing. Those designers were like plumbers - you know, putting a tunnel bere, a platform there. There was

> The new architects, says Mr Puoletti. were given the barest of guidelines. "I knew these people were good. You do not need to tell them what you want." The only golden rule was to create stations which have a "logic to their layout ... this means that travellers instinctively know where to find the platforms and the exits."

> Passengers will see daylight filtering down to platform level - a design requirement. Each platform will be faced by sliding glass screens to prevent passengers falling under trains. These will open only when the train doors open. This also means the rush of air that whips through most Tube stations will be absent on the Jubilee

Originally conceived as a park-and-ride scheme for drivers from Kent who wished to avoid the congested Blackwall tunnel. its exit now lies "15 yards from the Millennium Dome". There is room for more

#### BY RANDEEP **RAMESH**

lines to be added. "It can cope with, 17,500 people an hour," said Mark Glanville, the station engineer. "But only about 12,000 people every 60 minutes will use it to begin with. You need the extra space because the designers could add another set of tracks going to Woolwich."
Witb blue glass illuminated by low-lev-

el lighting and a walkway suspended by steel bars, North Greenwich - likely to be renamed "Millennium", as it will service the Millennium Dome - is a far cry from the clutch of tunnels and platforms cov-It runs from Westminster south of the ered in psychedelic mosaics that litter the

ond-busiest station in London," said Dennis Drake, the station's senior engineer. "We will be looking at handling 35,000 people in the morning peak bour." The first new stations since the Victo-

ria line in the late Sixties will link parts of London previously isolated from the capital's transport system. "At West Ham at the moment there are probably in the peak four trains an hour. When the Jubilee line is fully operational there will be 36," said Kevin Otto, train manager for the JLE.

Tracts of London - especially in the south - have been untouched by underground trains because of the geology. Unlike north London, which is built on clay, the material underneath is mostly gravel and sand, which is difficult and costly to drill through.

It has already been noticed that the prospect of a Tube journey into the West End in 20 minutes bas sent property prices spiralling in Greenwich, Canning Town and Bermondsey. The line has not been without its difficult moments. Many know it as the line designed to bale out Canary Wharf, the massive and controversial Docklands development built by Olympia

Londoners bave seen nothing like it. and most efficient urban transport system. Thames, through Southwark and current network. Sir Norman's £100m Ca- & York at ruinous cost and without transport system. Thames, through Southwark and current network. Sir Norman's £100m Ca- & York at ruinous cost and without transport system. Thames, through Southwark and current network. Sir Norman's £100m Ca- & York at ruinous cost and without transport system. Thames, through Southwark and current network. Sir Norman's £100m Ca- & York at ruinous cost and without transport system. Thames, through Southwark and current network is another wonder-of- port infrastructure. Now the developers will never be a supplementary of the state of the sta wards the cost of building the Jubilee line, which the Reichmann brothers - who conceived the development - had promised. However, a deal was struck after the Ma-

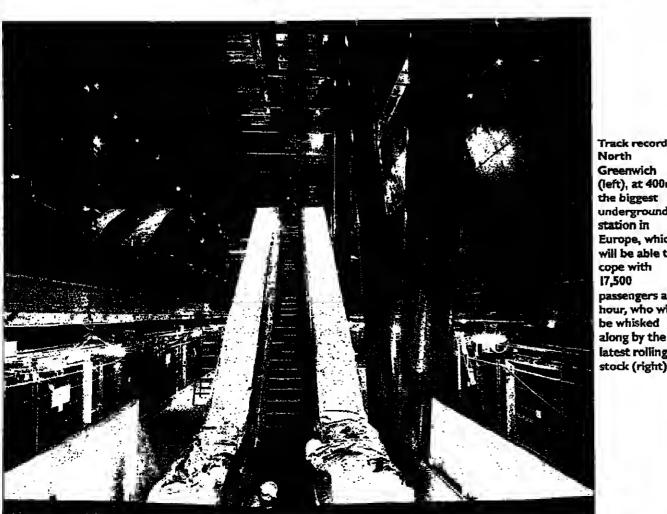
jor administration said it would move thousands of civil servants to offices in Canary

In addition to costing £800m more than the original £1.9bn hudget, the Jubilee extension will also open late - originally scheduled for a March 1998 start, the first of the 59 new trains will trundle along the tracks in September. And the signalling system - which would allow trains to run without drivers - is not working properly, so the line will only see 17 trains an bour running. And engineering problems mean Westminster station will open late - forcing travellers to change trains at Water-loo. Despite all this, the new line will change London as we know it. The promise of a trip into town in 10 minutes has seen firms flock to Canary Wharf. Citibank is moving into a 11-storey tower block with an entrance into the JLE station as part of the package.

A riverside leisure complex - featuring apartments, health club and a five-star hotel, is being built.

With stations linking Stratford, West Ham and Canning Town to the centre of town, it is not so much the East coming to London but capital going to the East.

\*London y



North Greenwich (left), at 400m the biggest underground station in Europe, which will be able to cope with 17,500 passengers an hour, who will be whisked along by the

latest rolling stock (right)

୍ 🐠 ୍ •



# TIME OFF

ld Tube

TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT



And there let us wallow

Mud, mud, glorious mud. Sharon Eckmon came face to face with a large hippopotamus in Botswana - and lived to tell the tale.

"Take your shoes off," whispered Lovebo. He looked extremely scared. And if your meffably cool local guide is scared, you may be sure that you are seconds away from Certain Death.

Certain Death appeared in the form of an overlarge hippo which, against all the odds, is sored the other day out a noes and concentrated on ours, turning the sunsetbright beauty of the Okavango delta into a potential scene from The Loss World.

The delta nestles in north-western Botswana, a breathlessly still, serene maze of lagoons and waterways flanked by papyrus and dotted with waterlilies. The Okavango river bypasses the sea, and pours out over the Kalahari basin, creating a delta the size of Switzerland - the largest in the world.

Our small group (seven Brits, two Germans and a Canadian modelling himself on Tarzan) had little difficulty in adapting to life afloat as we lay back in the dugouts, or mokoros (two people plus poler) and shut our eyes

ing splash of oar on water, the soporific drone of nameless insects and the gentle rocking of the little cance, it was not too hard to imagine ourselves on, say, the Norfolk Broads until we rounded a corner to be confronted by an elephant directly in our path. grazing quietly on the plentiful vegetation. And then, of course, there were the hippos.

Sunset on the delta is a magical time, when the air still smells of the sun, and the noises off of roaming wildlife fill you with adrenaline. Reed frogs trill incessantly, dis-tant elophacts call imperiously to the an other; countless birds chirp and coo.

Our little group had been joined by at least 15 other mokoros, much to our dis gust. Logically, we knew that we were not the only humans in this timeless paradise, but until now we had had not a sighting of any other tourist. Still, all was tranquil as we raised our cameras to honour the night. Our equilibrium was only slightly dented by a hippo some distance away.

This harmony between man and nature was rudely shattered by the appearance of another hippo who took umbrage at the first hippo being in his territory. Hippo One, ousted, decided to vent its spleen on the hapless

against the African sun. What with the sooth- mokoros - which shot off at an impressive speed. Ours, though, got stuck on a mudflal. By this time, in accordance with Lovebo's mstructions, bewildered hut not yet petrified,

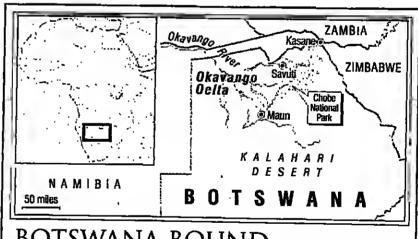
we had removed our shoes. We turned our heads to see Mr Hippo not 20ft away, cleaving through the water and leaving a wash like the QE2. Lovebo yelled "Run!" and believe me, when you are told to run, you don't hang about, even when you know that the water you are leaping into contains a crocodile every 30 feet or so. Lovcho graphed my hand and pulled me so hard that I fell in in that split second I was aware of my arm being pulled out of its socket, my feet sticking firmly in the mud and the hippo 10ft away now - opening its mouth wide. It was at this point that I also remembered hippos kill more people than any other African animal. Mortal terror is a great incentive. Another hefty tug from Lovebo, and we were standing drenched and shivering in the reeds, listening to the hippo snorting. Eventually it got bored and, typically, headed off in the direction we wanted to go. We emerged from the reeds to find that no one else had even got their toes wer; they were staring at us as though we were mad.

Back at the camp, humiliation abated.

After several drinks we were cheering up wonderfully. This was a safari on the cheap - which means basic, bush camping (you dispense with girlie things such as washing and sit-down toilets). There's a kind of "let's stop here for the night" attitude which is wildly exhilarating, if occasionally unnerving.

Guides who knew exactly what they were about added immeasurably to the experience. Lovebo could spot game well before we did - and in the case of a green water snake, almost plucked it out of its home so I could get a hetter look.

Each day brought myriad delights. The first elephant was greeted by breathless gasps from all of us. We waited, spellbound, as it grazed knee-deep in the water, then, with an uninterested glance in our direction, lumbered off. There's a mixture of joy and awe when you are face to face with Africa's wildlife. And not just the Big Five, either. On one hush walk we tracked an impala, utterly graceful as it leapt away, ears constantly twitching for the sound of a predator. Learning how to read spoor - giraffe, passed here about two hours ago. young male - these are things that resonate in the mind long after you leave. And the hippos, of course.



#### **BOTSWANA BOUND**

Getting there

If you book by next Wednesday and travel by the end of March, British Airways (0345 222111| charges £399 return from Heathrow to Gaborone, the Botswanan capital, where you connect with a flight to Maun. Alternatively you can reach the

Okavango Delta from Zimbabwe, travelling overland by hus through the Caprivi Strip of Namihia. Flights to Victoria Falls via Harare through Air

Zimbabwe (0171-491 0009) cost £614. Sharon Eckman paid £90 for a fiveday safari with a Namihian company called Wild Dog Safaris (19 Johann Albrecht Strasse, Windhoek), hut as she joined a proving expedition the cost was considerably lower than it would normally be.

More information High Commission of the Republic of Botswana, 6 Stratford Place, London WIN 9AE (0171-499 0031).

INSIDE

Bangkok/3

CITY BREAKS

RALFTING Highland fling/13

SPORT

RUGBETS FABRUT FORTUNES FACUP

Elway's last hurrah/I6 Scott Quinnell at Richmond/I9 The man in Shearer's sights/22

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**OF BOOKS** ENGAGING THE MIND



#### **GREEN CHANNEL**

Chinese New Year is on 28 January when the year of the tiger begins. Ironically, though, Chinese tigers bave dwindled to a point where they now number around 50 and are facing extinction. Those elsewhere in Asia are doing slightly better, but there is a real threat that the tiger could be extinct by the millennium.

According to Global Tiger Patrol there are now a maximum of 5,480 tigers left world-wide - down from more than 100,000 25 years ago. Siberian and Sumatran tigers are in their hundreds, Indochina bas an estimated 1,050 and India heads the game with a maximum of 3,700. The Caspian, Javan and Balinese tigers are already extinct.

The threat of extinction world-wide is apparently fuelling "tiger tourism", says Chris Breen, of Wildlife Worldwide: "The fact that tigers are being killed is encouraging people to come to us so that they can travel and see the tiger before it disappears."

Simple arithmetic means the odds of spotting a tiger are poor, but the best places to visit include Bandhogarh, Corbett and Ranthambhor national parks in India, and Bardia and Chitwan national parks in Nepal.

With the recent success of the BBC's Land of the Tiger television series, tiger tourism is likely to increase. However, a spokesperson for Global Tiger Patrol says opinion is divided about bow tiger tourism is managed, particularly "tiger shows" for tourists - where trackers find tigers and radio to a central point, then tourists are taken by elephant to see them. As if being harried by elephants and tourists were not enough, the tiger can then be easily found by poachers after the shows.

#### **RED** CHANNEL

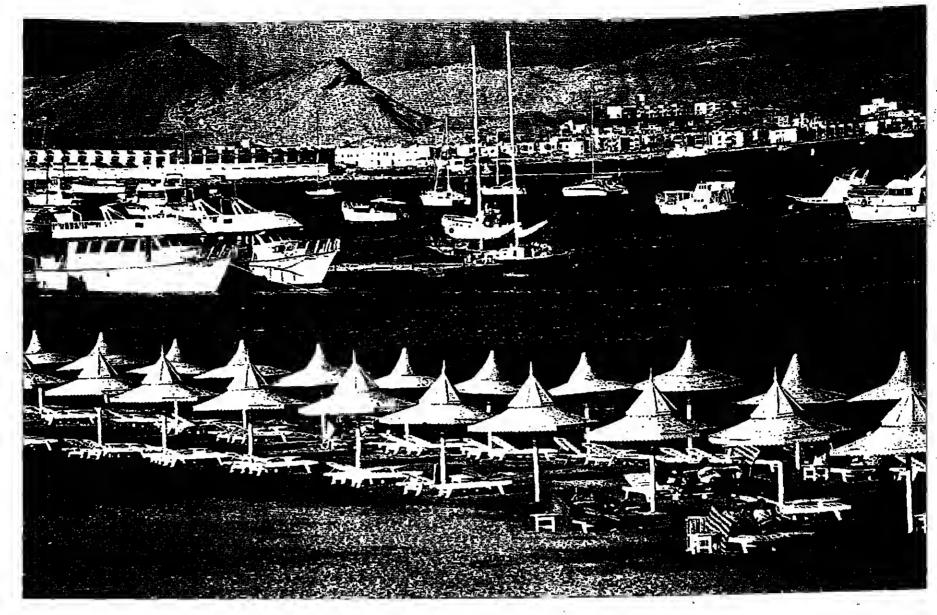
Recent warnings to travellers about drinking

"Due to the present economic situation in Thailand, THAI would like to announce that wine will no longer be served on board all domestic flights, in order to economise." - airport notice displayed by Thai Airways International

"Alcobolic beverages are prohibited on Florida beaches; public drinking is frowned upon. Any liquor, wine or cepted) must be full, sealed and unopened - or in the boot." - On the Road around Florida', 2nd edition. (Thomas Cook, £12.95)

"We would like to remind all travellers that, in line with Civil Aviation Law, intoxicated passengers may not be allowed to board their flight. We therefore ask that all our passengers act responsibly when purchasing alcohol." - notice at Café Select, Heathrow Airport

"Salt Lake City now has a number of hrewpubs, for which membership is not required; they're distinguishable from their counterparts in other states only by the requirement that they can't sell beer with an alcoholic content of greater than 3.2 per cent." -'Southwest USA: The Rough Guide'



Between the desert and the deep blue sea: the Egyptian Hurghada was clearly aimed at out-Benidorming Benidorm – until the recent tragedy at Luxor Photograph: Jean-Claude Aunos

### Hob-nobbing with the dolphin fraternity

Armed only with his enthusiasm, John McVicor set out to learn how to scuba-dive. He had some surprises.

Hurghada: Buddy can you spare some air? I had always fancied going scuba-diving; probably the amhition derives from watching those early Bond movies where the action shifts effortlessly from the air, to the ground, to underwater. And I saw myself taking to it easily. I swim well, I am used to intensive exercise and I'm a risk-taker. But things didn't quite work out as I expected.

It began with a miserable yule-tide and the decision that what I needed was a sun, sea and sand boliday. So the New Year saw me browsing Teletext's holidays and flights pages. I quickly suiffed out the cheapest - Egypt. Of course, the tourist industry there is still recovering from the appalling incident last November when 58 tourists - including six Britons - were butchered in Luxor.

es - including flight, three-star hotel and breakfast for seven days in Hurghada on the Red Sea where, as a unplanned bonus, I could also realise my ambition to go scuba-diving.

During the five-hour flight I daydreamed about diving with the dolphins, between blasting away on the hashisb pipe and compiling a consumer's guide to the local brothels. The reality was very different.

Hurghada strings out along the shoreline of the north-eastern side of the Red Sea. The town looks like an abandoned construction site, which until the Luxor incident was clearly aimed at out-Benidorming Benidorm. Everywhere along its 30-kilometre length and I-kilometre depth there are unfinished hotels, condominiums and holiday homes beginning to look like bleached skeletons in the desert. Behind it is a band of lowland desert backed by bleak sandstone mountains.

Hurghada airport doubles as a military base, and there are a lot of Kalashnikov-totting security guards around who smile at Europeans - hut what they do to fundamentalist suspects would probably make Saddam Hussein hlanch.

Still, the sun shone for seven whole days; even in January the midday temperature is in the high



### **EASY EGYPT**

Crusader Travel (0181-744 0474) quotes £129 for a week's package departing next Friday. Goldenjoy Holidays (0171-794 9767) is offering seven-night packages in Hurghada, Including flights from Gatwick, transfers, breakfast and three-star accommodation for £289. Regal Holidays (01353 778096) has holidays for the same price, based at the Royal Hotel. British citizens require a visa, issued by the Visa Section of the Consulate-General at 2 Lowndes Street, London SWIX 9ET (0171-235 9777). You need a passport and a photograph; since the Luxor attack, the £15 visa charge has been waived. Egypdan State Tourist Office: 170 Piccadilly, London WIV 9DD (0171-493 5282).

My best deal was a £109 package from Goldenjoy seventics Fahrenheit, with only an occasional windy than its cheaper competitors. The owner, James, exspell chilling me into jeans and a sweater. Soon after arriving, given that I couldn't find any brothels or dope dealers. I began sussing out the diving. There are 90 or so dive centres in Hurghada.

> For 20 years the town with its exotic reef divingsites was the experienced divers' destination of choice. But in the past 10 years, as diving has become more popular, the centres have switched to recreational scuha. In fact, it was this change that established the beachhead for mass tourism, which is now the mainstay of the local economy. Probably up to a third of current tourists are either diving or doing a diving course. Generally the courses cost between £120 and £220 and last five days; it is these courses that are most profitable for the centres, so there is a lot of competition for the newhies. Normally my Scottish ancestry propels me to the cheapest offer going, but the thought of being 15 metres under the sea with gimerack equipment made me question my usual priorities.

> I rang a friend in London who knows his scuba. and he literally ordered me to Barakuda, which was top of the price range. The Barakuda is located in one of the oldest hotels in Hurghada, Giftun Village. But the untutored eye cannot see why it is better value

Hurghada. There is as yet no real inspection that takes out the cowboys, but of the 90 or so here I know that only about 10 are following the proper maintenance

I signed up with Barakuda and was initiated into diving by Jonas Mentz, 28, a wiry, spring-heeled, English-speaking Swede who is a kind of underwater hippie. "Planet Earth is really planet Oceania, as nearly 80 per cent of its surface is water. Life sprang from the oceans. As a diver you are privileged to go back to where we came from, and you should respect and He quickly disabused me of any notions I had

of hreczing through the course. "Scuba is an equipment-intensive activity and to get the most out of your equipment you have to learn to use it as if it is an extension of your body. To dive safely you have to understand what pressure does to your body, and what measures you have to take to protect yourself from that pressure."

After a couple of days alternating between the classroom and the shallows, I was out in a boat among the coral reefs around Hurghada. The light here is a photographer's delight, and this is matched

by the translucence of the waters, which are rarely clouded by sediment or plankton.

Whenever I put on all the 60lb or so of gear. I felt like Donald Duck playing Super Bowl, but once you are in the water and have mastered the buoyancy controls to achieve weightlessness, there is only the cumbersome nature of the equipment to contend with. Although January is the coldest month, the water temperature was about 68°F, and with a wet-suit on, it felt warm.

My first dive, which was to practise various safety measures, was only to six metres, but I was instantly absorbed into a world of fish and coral. Slipping into a mesmeric trance is quite common; Jonas quickly snapped me out of it, and the training began.

Over five dives in three days, I went through the card: controlling buoyancy to go up and down effortlessly, adjusting to pressure on the ears, communicating with sign language, taking off my equipment underwater and putting back on, doing safety drills, learning to navigate by compass and use an underwater computer ... It was intensive and very tiring: I was sleeping nine or 10 hours rather than

my normal six. On my last dive, while we were on the bottom at Turtle Bay, Jonas etcbed "DIVER" in the sand, pointed at me and clapped his hands, then bowed.

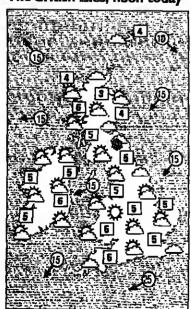
Yet I am not, nor will I ever be, a serious diver. My experience of scuba-diving was never unalloyed; every time I dived I had mixed emotions, doubts, reservations. People buy into the most diverse and bizarre packages to give spurious meaning and content to their

Early on, while gliding among the parrot fisb and looking for moray eels in the coral, I suddenly thought this was like trainspotting underwater. I mean, if you want to look at fish, then why not go to an aquarium or watch a video? And then there's all the paraphernalia and cost, just to stay underwater.

And yet, and yet. I remember Jonas stopping 12 metres down at Abu Hashish, tenderly to disentangle a hessian beanbag with "Produce of China" written on it, that had become snarled around a piece of coral. I remember hearing the squeak of dolphins and seeing the delight of Samir, the hoat's captain, when he alerted us to a school of them as we sailed back. Alongside me, Jonas said sadly, "Dolphins like us, but they are naïve."

#### WEATHER

#### The British Isles, noon today



General summary and outlook Spots of rain or drizzle are possible in southern counties of England first thing this morning but they will soon clear, and then most parts will have a dry day with spells of sunshine, the best of them in the west. Along eastern coasts of Scolland and England the cloud may thicken at times to limit the sunshine and give a light flurry of-snow, but this will generally go unnoticed. A cold night will follow, with a sharp

Most places will stay cold through the weekend and into Monday and Tuesday but any wintry flurries near eastern and north-eastern coasts are going to clear. That will leave everyone with spells of sunshine but there is going to be the increasing risk of treezing tog patches overnight, when, of course, it will be frosty. Rain will move into northern Scotland later on Monday and into Tuesday, with a few showers spreading down the eastern side of the country by

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Atlantic chart, noon today

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#### AA Roadwatch

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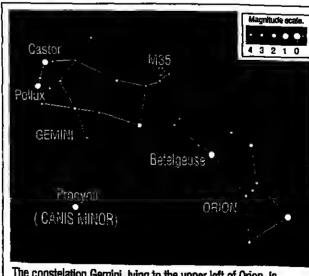
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Out and about with AA Road-Watch at 0336 401 for the latest local bile Association. Calls charged at 39p per min. (cheap rate) 49p per man (all other times) inc VAT

Sun and moon

#### The sky at night



The constelation Gemini, lying to the upper left of Orion, is currently visible all night. The stars Castor and Pollux are close to due south around 11.30 pm this week.

Gemini, the Twins, belongs to the magnificent assemblage of brilliant constellations that spangle our winter sky. It lies just to the north-east of Orion and can easily be located by following the Hunter's raised arm. Its two principal stars, Castor and Pollux, are both first magnitude. Pollux, marginally the brighter, is an orange giant, contrasting with the bluish white appearance of Pollux. Scientific scrutiny of Pollux reveals that it is in reality a system of six stars. Small telescopes can distinguish three, all of which turn out to be close doubles. Where Orion's uplifted arm almost touches the more northerly twin's foot lies a glorious star cluster. At fifth magnitude, it is in principle visible to the naked eye, though a very dark sky would he necessary. This is an object hest viewed with binoculars. Surprisingly, it has acquired no name, either classical or fancifully descriptive. It is simply M35.

Jacqueline Mitton



## ternity

### 48 hours in the life of Bangkok

You need a break - and a short-cut to the soul of a city. Each week, 'The Independent' provides a prescription for the perfect weekend break. This week, Simon Colder spends a 48-hour stopover in the Thai capital.

Why go now?

Pragmatically, because January finds steamy Bangkok at its coolest (though this is a relative term). Financially, because meltdown in the Far East means prices have been halved in the last six months. Spiritually, because serenity can still be found within a frenetic city of six million.

The cheapest non-stop flights that I could find are on Eva Air for £469 return from Heathrow, booked through World Plus (0181-771 0218). If you are decorum. prepared to change planes in Prague, then Flightbookers (0171-757 2444) has a fare of £340 from London or Manchester on Czech Airlines.

Bangkok is, of course, a popular stopover on trips to Australia; Quest Worldwide (0181-547 3322) has a fare of Alitalia via Rome of £624 return to Melbourne, if you book by next Saturday.

Get your bearings

The runway at Don Muang airport has been there since 1912, making it the oldest airfield in the world that still has the same location. Thankfully the terminal buildings have been enhanced over the years, and new arrivals are given some protection from the touts that used to converge.

Unless you arrive during the morning rush-hour, the easiest way into town is probably a metered taxi, a relatively new invention. Including tolls on the expressway, you will pay around 300 baht for the ride - which, at yesterday's rate of exchange, is about £2.50. In rush-hour, you'd be better off following the signs to the train.

Watch out for ...

Food and drink offered by strangers, as it may he drugged, according to this month's travel advice from the Foreign Office, 1t continues: "The standard of driving is poor and there have been several fatal bus crashes on Thailand's roads in the Sunday morning: go to church past few months."

The parsimonious will head straight for Khao San Road, the 500-metre long Westerners' street just east of the Democracy Monument. As well as travel agencies and shops selling counterfeit fashions, you can find backpackers' bunks for as little as £1. But on a short stay, you owe it to yourself and the people of Thailand to splash out a bit. My favourite is the faded chie of the Royal Hotel (00 66 2 222 9111), just south of Khao San Road, where a perfectly comfortable double room with television You'll be in fine fettle for your onward fight. costs £15 a night.

For luxury, it is hard to beat the Oriental (00 The icing on the cake 66 2 236 0400), overlooking the river south of the If you have never been in a first-class lounge at railway station, which this week is offering rooms any airport, Bangkok is the place to try it. Holdwith views for £150 a night.

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Whether or not you reside at the Oriental, liberate yourself from Bangkok's choking streets and board a riverbus. These gallant vessels zip up, down and across the Chao Praya river, yielding views that make sense of a city that often feels overwhelming. Go ashore at Thewet, on the east bank in the north of the city. Less favourable forms of transport include the tuk-tuk (to imagine these screechy three-wheelers, cross a Reliant Robin with a bus shelter) and the back seat of a taxi-bike, usually a decrepit Honda 100.

From the boat station, go east to the relative calm of the Ambara Garden. But he warned that Bangkok" and "nice walk" do not sit easily in the

Lunch on the run

The present parlous economic state means you can get a fine, instant bowl of noodles and vegetables from one of the capital's zillion roadside food vendors for as little as 10 pence. Eat plenty and often; you deserve it, and so do they.

Cultural afternoon

The Grand Palace is a mandatory call for every visitor, a fabulous concoction of architecture so intense that it looks like a Hollywood film set. Note that it closes for the day early (3.30pm), and dress - as you should everywhere in Bangkok - with

Window shopping

Bangkok is the bargain basement of the world at present, and you can barely walk along a street without encountering a retail frenzy. For dramatic sights and smells, explore the lanes around Chinatown (mainly south of Charoen Krung Road, stretching down to the river). For the keenest clothing prices, try Pratunam Market (east of the city centre) - though most Westerners end up paying a bit over the odds and picking everything up in the relative calm of Khao San Road.

An aperitif

Pratunam Market also tees you up neatly for the ideal sunset view - from the Sky Lounge at the top of Baiyoke Tower (00 66 2 252 3890). The whole outrageous sprawl transforms itself as you sip your Singha beer, a bargain at £1.40.

You could stay put at the top of the tower, but an even more alluring place to dine is the Oriental Hotel - and you can choose from seven restaurants, from Thai to Italian. Make do with local beer rather than imported wine, and the final hill will be approximately halved.

Among Bangkok's hundreds of temples, one wat stands out: Wat Po, which commands a vast block south of the Grand Palace. You may well spend most of the day at the city's higgest and oldest temple, drifting around grounds adorned with exquisite sculptures, and admiring the 46-metre reclining Buddha. But the main draw is a massage at the Thai Traditional Medical School in the temple grounds. For £2 or so, you can undergo an hour's comprehensive pounding. Don't underestimate the pain this involves; but there is no better cure for jet lag and other aviation ailments.

ers of even the dodgiest economy ticket can buy their way in. Just through passport control in Terminal 1. you'll see the Louis Tavern - a sumptuous suhterranean bolt-hole where graceful staff hring a constant flow of chilled drinks to your deep leather armchair. Two hours of this treatment is much more comfortable than the Wat Po massage and a darn sight cheaper, at 600 baht (about £7).

A cut-price alternative is the Food Centre, in the passageway between International and Domestic terminals. With two dozen stalls preparing fresh dishes to order, this is possibly the finest, and certainly the cheapest, airport catering establishment in the world.



Spice of life: chillies on sale in a streetside market by the Chao Praya river

Photograph: Robert Francis/Robert Harding Picture Library

What's wrong with Scotland? More precisely, what's wrong with Scotland's three leading airports?

The communities they serve must be miffed about the way millions are poured into new rail links for English airports, while the Scots continue to make do with slow, congested roads.

This week, the Heathrow Fast Train started running between central London and Britain's busiest airport. Today and tomorrow you can travel on the new link for

After that, it will become the most expensive railway in the UK-both from the point of view of the passenger (from June, at least £10 each way for the 15-mile journey, with no reductions for kids). and the airport's owner BAA, which has paid close on halfa-billion pounds for the new line. Well worth the investment, though, as all BAA's airports are now connected to the rail network. As long as they're in

BAA has ensured that

and Southampton have excellent links by train. Yet the company's three Scottish airports remain marooned from the rail network. In the case of Edinburgh and Aherdeen, main-line railways run right past the airports; a link from each would cost a fraction of the £440m BAA spent on its Heathrow extravaganza.

Glasgow is Scotland's leading airport, and the fourth busiest in the UK, yes plans for a rail link to the main line a mile and a half away were shelved when local government in Strathchyde was last reorganised.

A spokesman for BAA in Scotland says the reasons are two-fold - the airports are closer to the cities they serve than those in England, and that only 12 million people in total use the company's three airports in Scotland, compared with close to 60 million for Heathrow alone. In short, he says, rail links are unsustainable.

The effect: south of the Border you can take the train to the plane; north of it, you



SIMON **CALDER** 

Anglo-centric or not, tribute should be paid to the strides BAA has made in reducing road travel to

Heathrow. Staff have been offered cash to relinquish car park passes, and awarded a

15p a mile hicycle allowance. The latest move in the "Freeflow Heathrow" campaign is a pilot scheme to provide free transport (not just for pilots - for anyone who works at the airport). People with a Slough postcode and an airport 1D qualify for a travel card covering much of south east England, gratis. (It would be a dreadful slur to say that at last there is some compensation

for living in Slough.) The man behind the scheme is Heathrow's managing director, Roger Cato, who says, "We are

absolutely committed to impr oving public transport access to the airport. BAA's vision is to have 50 per cent of

customers travelling to and from Heathrow by public transport." Mr Cato cannot he accused of introducing the free travel scheme from selfinterest - he lives miles away from Slough, at leafy Horsham in West Sussex. His 35-mile journey to the

airport is a tricky one. Does he take the train to London Victoria and the Airbus from there, or change at Clapham Junction and go to Feltham for the connecting bus? No. he travels by car, though a BAA spokeswoman says that he cursbares when possible.

3

Since I seem to specialise in being in the wrong place at promised 35 minutes. not quite the right time, I was

surprised to find myself booked on a flight back from Bangkok to Heathrow that arrived on Monday, the day the new Fast Train link began. Unfortunately, the rail tunnel from the airport won't be completed until June. Until then, you have to catch a bus to "Heathrow Junction", basically a large shed on a

of the airport. The bus I took from Terminal Four spent the first five minutes heading directly away from London, down the A30 towards Land's End. But the overall journey to

trading estate five miles north

Paddington took the

The new line also provides a handy poser for dealing with departure lounge bores: If ABZ is Aberdeen and BHX is Birmingham, where is QQP? Answer: Paddington Station, London W2, now awarded an international aviation call-sign.

One more line: next weekend, The Independent Online edition acquires a special travel section. combining the best from these pages, our Wednesday travel page in City Plus, and our sister paper, the Independent on Sunday. This worldwide window can be found at www.independent.co.uk/travel

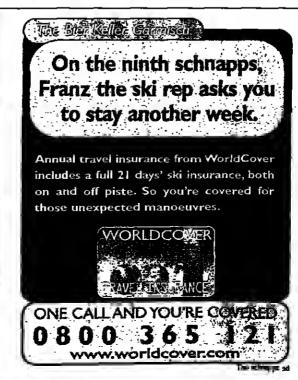


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It seems extraordinary that there is a ski area in France just six hours' drive from Calais that hardly any Britons have heard of. The Ballons des Vosges look like the tree-lined conlours of the Rocky Mountains in America rather than the jagged spires of the French Alps, which is probably why they attract so many Continental families and beginners.

The atmosphere here is intimate rather than hip. You are more likely to see bahes on planks than grunge kids on snowboards, and you'll hear the sound of a woodcutter rather than a chainsaw. You also need never fear the sound of exploding dynamite. This avalanche-free ski zone is a secluded place to begin testing yourself or your child on skis.

There are other benefits, too; this is a beautiful area of frozen lakes and lush green forests, where cosy mountain restaurants serve piping hot quiche lorraine to wash down with a glass of good wine.

If you take the road to Reims and drop south between Nancy and Strasbourg, little signs to ski resorts pop up at the most unlikely moments. The higgest ski area is La Bresse, which by Alpine standards is small - 36 pistes, covering 220 hectares. It is also comparatively low, rising to just 1,350 metres. But the owner of the lift company there, Jean-Marie Rémy, has invested heavily, and 70 per cent of the runs are covered by snow-making ma-

Jean-Marie opened the first ski lift at La Bresse 30 years ago, when the word "ecology" was barely understood by the skiing world. Now he is in constant struggle with conservationists as he tries to extend the area.

Fortunately, there are masses of badly needed snowcannons, fed by a conveniently located lake, and a ski school geared up to the needs of children and adult ski and snowboard débutantes.

Remy learned the art of survival when he was abandoned in the Vosges forest after the Germans took his father yand older brothers off to labour camps. He now gives local children free lift passes, and provides ski fanatics with floodlit skiing until 10.30pm during high season.

For more experienced skiers. the Vosges makes an ideal



break on the way to the Alps. It may also remind you of the early days of unsophisticated skiing, a few runs where you can't get lost, and a skyline free of pylons. Above all, it is a beginner's paradise.

The region's second largest resort of : Gérardmer rises above a glorious lake, which during winter is an ice rink and skate-surfing playground. Rather smaller (20 pistes, covering 40 kilometres of trails) and with fewer snow-cannons. Gérardmer is also good for families. It has a kindergarten, a children's ski school and a snowboarders' half-pipe. The village atmosphere is friendly and the non-English-speaking instructors have turned word-

The even tinier resort of Lispach has just six runs Itwo green, two blue, one red and one black) but lies in the heart of northern France's largest cross-country skiing domain, giving access to the trails of its larger neighbours Gérardmer. Xonrupi-Longemer and La

free communication into an art

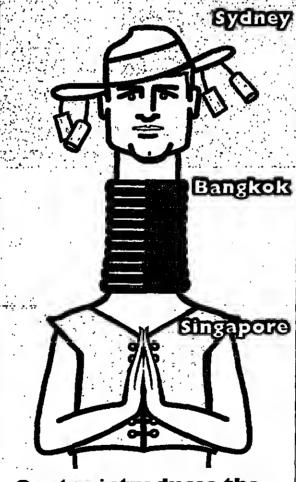
metres of cross-country trails meander through forests, round lakes, and over hills from 800 metres to 1,200 metres high. But for the ultimate in safe.

secluded skiing, you cannot beat the Ermitage Frère Joseph at Ventron, which offers guests their own private ski area. Thibault Leduc's grandfather June Slude paid £140 to travel by built the first ski lift here in the Sixties, but left it to Thibault to develop the accommodation. Two medium-priced hotels, offering some of the best food in the region, stand at the foot of

Mountain facilities are limited but popular touches include 33 329 272727. La Bresse Tourist places for picnic lunches in the Office 00 33 329 254129.

woods, and tree houses for the children. Snowhoarders are banned in high season. The only downside to this idyllic spot is that it is very low tharely 1,000 metres) and there are no snowcannons. So call for a snow report hefore you drop in.

Stena Line from Dover to Calais, and £40 return in tolls on the French autoroute. She paid £40 a night (excluding breukfast) at the two-star Ermitage Frère Joseph hotel in Ventron, For hotel booking and snow repons contact Gerardmer Tourist Office 00



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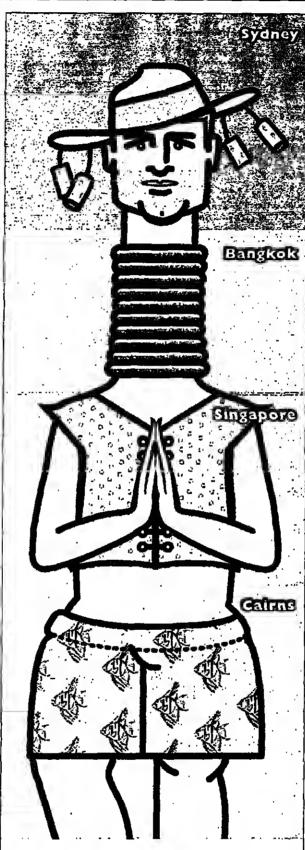


#### HIGH ROAD

The first Thomas Cook Overseas Timetable of the year (price £8.40) brings news of a new, upmarket train service in Australia: "The new Great South Pacific Express, which should turn out (when it starts next August) to be one of the world's best ultra-luxury cruise trains. Bookings between Brisbane and Kuranda, and between Brisbane and Sydney, can already be made on this train, which will be an exact replica of an 1890s service. It is not yet known whether you will have to 'dress up' before being allowed on board."

#### LOW ROAD

The same publication has less favourable tidings from other parts of the world. "The Indonesian railway operator has never published timetables in any comprehensible form. If a train is fully booked, they have no worries about adding a car with no vestibule door, or 19 windows missing. Not that they have reached the level of a vehicle seen recently, travelling at fairly high speed, too, in Algeria - which was simply a body shell on wheels, with no doors, seats, or lights ...



### **Qantas** introduces the 3-Stop Ticket, £844\*

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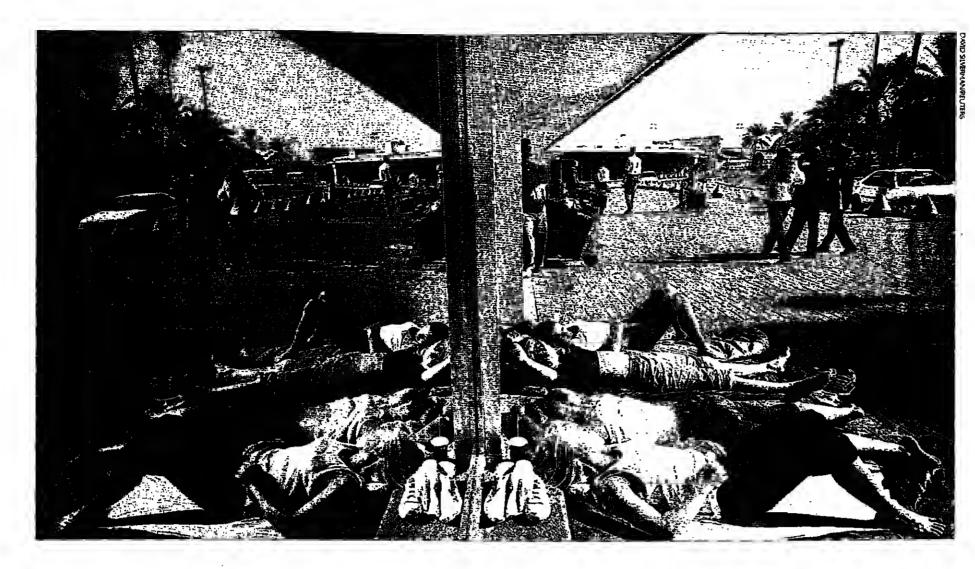
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### Independent travellers start here

A wintry circuit around Britain can take you to the ends of the earth. This is the season of the travel and holiday exhibition, with events across the country in the next few weeks. Simon Calder will be travelling the world in London's Docklands next weekend.

How do you choose your holiday? That was the elementary, essential question put to punters earlier this month by the cable station Travel Channel.

The responses covered the whole range that we fortunate late-20th-century folk can enjoy: press advertisements, travel agents, tour operators' brochures, Teletext and the Internet. Predictable enough, until the very last woman. who said drily, "I look at the atlas."

Whether you stick pins in it blindfold, or gaze at it for hours trying to choose between the seductive curl of Mexico's Yucatan, Italy's toe-punt of poor Sicily or the mad geometry of Sulawesi, east of Java, a representation of the world is the best place to start. But a good next step is to set your compass for the nearest travel exhibition. Between now and March, these will be staged at a number of British cities (see panel, right, for details).

My virtual globetrotting will begin next weekend at the Independent Travellers' World (ITW) event at the London Arena in Docklands. When Thomas Cook invented the package holiday in 1851, an inevitable corollary was

fuses to comply with the mass-market mould of the tour operator, who helieves that life is certainly more interesting and probably less expensive if you make your own way around the world, Since ITW began in Bristol in 1993, the travel fair has grown steadily, but has retained its seductive simplicity; one-stop shopping for the independent traveller.

Suppose your pin lands on Australia (and, let's face it, the country presents a big enough target for the hlindfold voyager). Students and under-26s can check out cheap air fares with Campus Travel and STA, while we fogies see what deals Austravel and Bridge the World have

Resorts of Australia competes with YHA Australia for the pleasure of your overnight company, and camping outfitters try to sell the delights of canvas.

Yes, but is it safe? The Foreign Office sets up its stall seven miles east of Whitehall to advise on hazards within Australia and at stopovers en route, while you'll be able to get medical advice from Masta and an instant second opinion from the Nomad Medical Centre.

Tourist hoards from Finland to New Zealand via Japan will tempt you with stopover possibilities, but for less partisan inspiration to offer. Plenty of tour companies are on hand you should attend some of the feet-itching talks

the independent traveller - the person who re- purveying trips within Australia of various de- given by people who've been there, done that grees of (dis)organisation, while Backpackers and have the chronic parasitic infestations to prove it (though this last property applies to none of the following writers).

William Dalrymple will be tracing his latest journey in the shadow of Byzantium, while Annie Caulfield tells of a different kind of Middle Eastern love affair. Guidebook guru Tony Wheeler (see story, right) takes Antarctica out of travel's freezer compartment; and at the Working Abroad seminar you can quiz Susan Griffith about the prospects for finding gainful employment among the penguins.

And that's just the people who have also witten for the travel pages of The Independent. If you want to try to join them, you could attend the travel writing seminars on Saturday or Sunday. On the former is Hilary Bradt, publisher of guidehooks and a great adventurer (as well as an occasional Independent contributor).

Once or twice a year, she also leads group adventure tours to Africa and South America. Her theory of how to conduct these trips is wonderfully simple: "Convince everyone think they're having an adventure, while making absolutely sure that they're not." I think I'm going to have an adventure next weekend.

Adventurers planning to explore Docklands next weekend will find a 48-hour guide to the district in next Saturday's Time Off section of 'The In-

For your chance to win one of three Independent holidays, courtesy of Independent Travellers World, see page 8 of today's Independent.

# Asia or bust – by Bentley or bus?

The latest edition of Lonely Planet's guidebook to Thailand has achieved an interesting seal of approval: ask the Thai tourist office in London for information on the Phi Phi islands, and they will hand you a photocopy of the relevant pages.

If sex was invented in the Sixties, the Seventies marked the start of an activity that many people find even more satisfying: Independent travel. In an era when the music of choice on board the Magic Bus to Athens was the Woodstock soundtrack, Tony Wheeler set out across Asia on the cheap - and subsequently committed his findings

Twenty-five years ago, the first volume was put together on the kitchen table of this ex-Warwick University student and his wife Maureen. Since then, Lonely Planet has girdled the globe (along with a dozen other travel guide publishers), making its founder a wealthy man. Is be now more Bentley than hus, preferring Hiltons to bostels? I checked his travelling habits.

hire. Alan bat

medfak.

Q When was the last time you travelled by plane? A Four days ago, from Madrid to Paris. It was on Air France, whose fares are appalling, but the food is good far hetter than Lufthansa.

Q By train? A Two days ago, on Eurostar from Paris to London. Given the choice, I'd always travel by train city-to-city.

Q Bus? A In Chile, last year:

Q Ferry? A In Tahiti a couple of months ago - the 26-minute trip between Tahiti and Moorea.

Q Bicycle? A At Lonely Planet headquarters in Melbourne, I cycle to work four days a week, then drive my Ferrari on the fifth.

Q When did you tast stay in a hotel

A Two nights ago in Paris, at the Hotel St Louis in the Marais.

Q In a B&B? A Last night, at Mrs Something-or-other's in Knightsbridge.

Q Hostel? A When I was walking the Pennine Way a year ago. Q In the past 12 months, what is the most you've paid for a night's accommodation? A US\$500 [about #300] in Bora-Bora, a Society Island.

Q And the least? A US\$4 [about £2.50] in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Q How do you cope with problems such as delays

when travelling? A I try not to sit and fume; I prefer to look for alterna-

Q In the Seventies, you wrote "If you're ever in Melbourne, Australia just look up Lonely Planet in the phone directory and drop in - or we'll see you on

the road". Does that still apply? A Yes - or call in at one of our offices in Paris, San Francisco or Kentish Town.

If none of these places features in your immediate travel plans, you have a chance to catch up with Lonely Planet's founder in a couple of other exotic destinations: Bromley, or on the isic of Dogs. Tony Wheeler will be spo Ottakar's Bookshop in Bromley next Thursday, 29 January, at 7pm (0181-460 6037). And next Saturday at the Independent Travellers' World event, at the London Arena on the Isle of Dogs. Mr Wheeler will be speaking about his experiences in Antarctica. See the story (left) for details of times and prices.

Simon Calder

#### GATEWAYS TO THE WORLD

London Arena, 30 January-1 February: Glasgow SEC, 13-15 February: Holiday Independent Travellers' World, Friday and Travel Show '98: 10am-6pm Friday 12 noon-7pm (£3); Saturday IOam-6pm and Saturday, 10am-5pm Sunday; adults (£5); Sunday 10am-5pm (£5). The coupon £5, concessions £3, family ticket (two below qualifies Independent readers for a adults, three children) £15. Call 0115-967 discount. Call 0171-341 6691.

Bristol Watershed, 7-8 February: Independent Travellers' World. Saturday 10am-6pm; Sunday 10am-5pm. Entry £3. Call 0171-341 6691.

Birmingham NEC, 13-15 February: Holiday and Travel Show '98; 10am-6pm daily. Adults £6, under-15s free; a pre-booked ticket on 0121-767 4774 saves £2.

9*51*9. Manchester GMex, 21-22 February: In-

dependent Travellers' World. Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-5pm. Admission £3. Call 0171-341 6691.

London Olympia, 26 February-1 March: Destinations '98: 10am-6pm daily: £3.50 if booked before 30 February on 0171-244 0950L £5 on the door.



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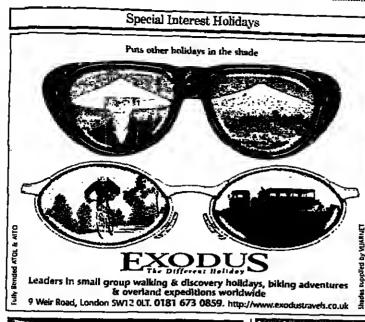
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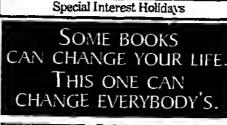
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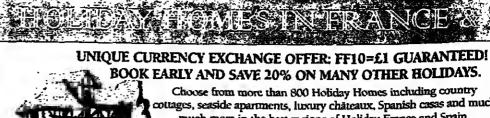


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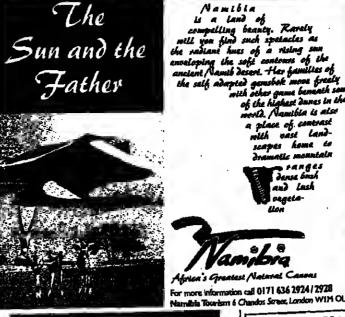
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Sharks, shops and a fantasy

palace: for a refreshing and

arah Jewell goes to Brighton.

On a cold day in January, when the bills keep lopping through the letterbox and the win-er blues have set in, a day trip to Brighton

a good way to cheer yourself and the chil-

ren up without spending too much mon-

y. The sea air is as invigorating today as was in the 1750s, when Dr Richard Rus-

Il's sea-water cures turned the little fisb-

ig town of Brighthelmstone into a

shionable seaside resort. Warm sea wa-

r mixed with milk is no longer considered

articularly therapeutic, but a good dose of

copping is uplifting, and the streets of

righton are crammed with tiny shops sellig antiques, arts and crafts, bric-à-brac and nick-knacks to suit all tastes and purse sizes.

and when your feet are aching there is a

use choice of cafés in which to recover, from

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# Pushing the boat out with minarets and chips

arah: As we walked out of Brighton sta- walked through the centre of town past the on, blinking into the sunsbine, there was bigh street stores and down to the scafront.

nly one direction Alfie and Juliette want-Standing on the promenade, we leant d to go and that was due south, straight over the blue Victorian railings and admired the pea-green waves and then crunched our own the hill to the sea, However, I manged to persuade them to turn left so that way along the glistening grey pebbles to--could enjoy browsing through the North wards the Palace Pier. All along the beach anes. Sydney Street, Gloucester Road, there are dozens of little arches, but under the road, tucked away in one of them ensington Gardens and Gardner Street re hursting with bargains and curiosities; is the Fishing Museum. The Sussex Maid ou can buy original Thirties eigarette cards, a Fifties fishing trawler, squats in the arch Art Deco wooden chairs, Victorian silver- surrounded by shells and nets and pictures backed bairbrushes, and vegetarian shoes. of ships.

Hunstrete

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Near .

wooden-slatted deck. Here the air smelt refreshing and the water sparkled as we promenaded up and down just as the Victorians would have done. Feeling hungry, we for-tified ourselves with fish and chips and then walked past the amusement areade to the children's funfair on the end of the pier where we sampled the genteel delights of the bumper hoats, the mini-dodgems and

Back down the pier and across the road, another Victorian building has been renevated. The old Brighton Aquarium, built We walked up to the pier and along the in 1872, houses the Sea Life Centre and freshing day out.

some of the original Victorian tanks have been restored. Here little pop-eyed plaice and great gulping catfish swim about. In the modern tanks, tiny seahorses and huge gliding rays are equally enchanting, but I most enjoyed gawping at the white-bellied sharks in the underwater tunnel.

After tea in the Lanes we wandered back towards the station past George IV's fanthe leaping horses on the golden carousel. tasy palace, the Royal Pavilion. Outlined against the afternoon sun, the onionshaped domes and flying minarets looked bizarrely exotic: an uplifting end to a re-

Alfle: I thought it was a bit boring walking down to the sea as all the shops we looked in were selling things for grown-ups. like tables and chairs and pots and jewellery, but I did like the juggling sbop. It had juggling halls and kites and skates in the window, and I thought it would be a really good place to buy a present.

The beach was quite exciting. It was nice and cool, as I felt hot after walking through the town, and I liked the sound of the pebbles crunching under my boots. I liked looking for treasure, and found a ball of fish eggs which I took home.

Underneath the arches: Brighton's Fishing Museum Photograph: Rui Xavier

I thought the pier was very exciting. I loved the funfair and best of all I liked the Crazy Clown Flying Roundabout. It was brilliant, as it went right up in the air. The Sea Life Centre was fun. I really liked pretending it was scary in the shark tunnel and shouting out, and I liked looking at all the fish. I didn't like the Pavilion much; I thought it was a bit fancy and trying to show off, with all those turrets.

Juliette: I wanted to walk straight down to the pier, but Sarah wanted to look in all the shops. I did like some of the sbops especially the one which had rolls of black-andwhite-spotted material in the window that looked like Dalmatian dog hair. I liked the beach and the tiny little puppet shop on the seafront which bad string puppets hanging in the window. I thought the pier was very exciting. I liked sitting in a canoe that floated round a little river through a tepee and past a giant cactus, and I liked the bumper boats. Sea Life was fun. I liked touching things in the rock pool. The sea-anemones were really sticky, and the bermit crabs were all bumpy. I thought the ray fish were very friendly because they kept sticking their noses out of the water to say hello. I had a really good day out in Brighton and I enjoyed going home on the train.

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Who needs flowers when you could have great swirling leaves of cabbage instead? Anno Povord digs for victory in the vegetable garden.

It being the time of year when hope springs eternal, I have been swamped by intricate details of the new diets that friends bave embarked on. Fat-free, sugar-free, dairy-product-free, additive free, genetically modified-free, red-meat-free: I've oodded my way through accounts of most possible permutations, sustaining myself the while with my current passion - dark-chocolate-covered ginger biscuits. The nne great plus of all this denial is that although friends will still drop in for coffee (de-caff, no milk, no sugar) there are many more biscuits for ME.

There's never been more fuss about the food we put into our mouths, whether the fidgeting is self-induced, or imposed by an extraordinarily jittery government, yet more cases of food poisoning are reported than ever before. And running parallel with these misgivings about food is a positively epicurean embracing of it. Food is theatre. Food is television. Chefs are film stars, restaurants are performances. Food gobbles up more print each weekend than is ever devoted to art

One thing about the foodfest puzzles me. Given that we all worry (rightly) about what may or may not have been sprayed nn the fruit and vegetables we buy, given that we all know that oo amount of slaving over a hnt stove is going to turn cotton-wool tomatoes into a gournet's dream, why don't more of us grow at least some of our own food?

The advantages - taste, peace of mind - are obvious. There are also more subtle benefits: self-sufficiency and the knowledge that at least a few bits of what you eat have nnt been driven hundreds of gas-guzzling miles before they hit your plate. I'm more interested in the perceived disadvantages, though. I am not trying to sell gardening here, I'm taking for granted the fact that anyone reading this is likely to be interested in growing something. But wby do so many people grow flowers, while so few grow fruit and vegetables?

Lack of space. That's a good way to shut me up when I'm in crusading mode. But is it true? Anyone who gardens at all must have at least a windowsill or a window box or a balcony, eveo if they doo't have a patch of proper ground-level earth. Basil grows better un a windowsill than anywhere else you can put it. Frilly lettuces thrive in window boxes. Tomatoes flourish on balconies, provided they get some sun. Cordon apple trees will live for years in pots, provided they are fed and watered. If so many millions can commit to their cats, why does commitment to an apple tree seem such a terrifying proposition?

And then there are allotmeots. They were set up precisely to cater for those who had oo gardens of their own and their demise is one of the saddest indications of our present priorities. Sites that were once on the fringes of towns and cities are now prime development targets. Plot holders at the Hazel Grove allotments in Stockport have long beeo fighting a rearguard actioo against Tesco, which wants to turf them off their patches to build a superstore. There's

Lack of time. I'm oot sure about that response either. If you like to potter round among plants anyway, pottering around a courgette plant is not going to absorb any more of your valuable free moments than sustaining a sunflower. If time were really a factor in the way we garden, oooe of us would have lawns. They are more time-consuming and less rewarding than anything else in the garden.

Lack of experience. But that's no bar to gaining experience. Gardening, like playing football, is one of those things that you have to do to get the knack of it. Things happen that you don't understand, so theo you turn to friends or books

to find out where you are going wrong. The New Kuchen Garden (Dorling Kindersley, £16.99) was written (by me, so this is a shameful piece of self-publicity) entirely with new gardeners in mind. If you can grow roses, you should be able to get your head round radicchio.

Lack of interest. This is the insoluble one. But it's a free world (just) and gardening is an important expression of that freedom. I'd certainly fight to the death any law that said people had to grow vegetables and fruit. I'm just surprised that more don't want to. I am happier tinkering with nur fruit and veg than with anything else in our garden (except tulips, of course). I like the order. I like the profusion. I like the underlying sense of usefulness. And

So if this is to be the year when you start to grow some of your own food, what should you choose to grow? The things you best like to eat, is the obvious answer, but you have to balance that against nther considerations. Some crops tie up space for longer than others. Some are easier to succeed with than others.

Amongst herbs, basil is a front-runner. If you need it. you need it in handfuls. It is easy from seed and grows happily on sunny windowsills, each plant in a 3-in pot of compost. Outside, both rosemary and sage grow well in pots. Being Mediterraneans, they are used to drying winds and lack nf rain. They'll take the exposure of a third-floor balcony. Parsley is not so easy. The seed is slow to germinate and the plants, with their long, carroty tap roots, hate to be transplanted. It is best sown in the open ground, perhaps as an edging to a bed of annuals.

Amongst fruit and vegetables, tomatoes come top of the list. They are as easy in pots and Growbags as they are in the open ground or a greenhouse. In Growbags, lowgrowing bush tomatoes are easier to manage than tall cordon types. Courgettes grow well in Growbags, too, the yellow-fruited kinds slight-

ly more decorative than the green kinds. Try (Marshalls, £1.23) or the round-fruited Toodo di Nizza' (Suffolk Herbs, 80p). Garlic is simple to grow, though it's better planted in autumn than in spring. Shallots would be an alternative. Climbing beans of all kinds are easy and excellent, if you can contrive a support for them. They are outrageously expensive in supermarkets, so with the money you have saved on your home-grown ones, you can splurge on some extragood Australian wine to go with them.

will zap us in the garden June and July.

> Get vegetable seeds and plants from The Organic Gardening Catalogue, River Dene Estate, Molesey Road, Hersham, Surrey KT12 4RG (01932 253666) - collections of cooking herbs or saladings, £10.99 for a dozen mixed plants; DT Brown and Co. Station Road, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire FY6 7HX of herbs and vegetables, including climbing and dwarf beans, endive and tomato; SE Marshall & Co, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2RF (01945 466711) - a wide range of vegetable and herb starter plants, dill, chives, marjoram, leeks, lettuce, tomatoes; Suffolk Herbs, Monks Farm, Coggeshall Rd; Kelvedon, Essex CO5 9PG (01376 572456) - an astonishing

range of vegetables, especially Italian varieties and seeds for

**CUTTINGS** Building up in commercial nurseries all over the country are stocks of the plants that

> centres this Easter. This year's novelties include a new choisya (Mexican orange blossom) called Walberton Moonshine'. All choisyas have handsome, glossy evergreen foliage and sweetly scented flowers in

> > April and

May. But

that this new

breeders prom

introduction has bigger, better flowers and glossier foliage than existing varieties. Judge for yourself when it hits the market in April. Also new this year will be the hebe 'Spring Glory', which produces its darkpurple flower spikes in April and May, rather than the more usual

The National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens has brought out a new guide to 600 plant collections all over the country. If you love hellebores bead for Hampshire where the local NCCPG group has 40 species and 69 cultivars scattered through the gardens of local NCCPG members. The collection is open by appointment from mid-February to the end of March, admission £1.50 (contact John Wood, oo 01794 884306). If primroses are your thing, go to Ashby de la Zouch in Leicestershire, where Mrs Jackson has 80 different kinds. Admissioo £1 (open by appointment, 01530 412606). In Yorkshire, Mrs Shaw has a primrose collection too, at Tan Cottage, West Lane, Cononley, near Keighley (01535 632030). It is open by appointment only, ac £1. For a copy of the directory, send £3.50 (plus 50p for ... postage and packing) to the NCCPG, The Pines, RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking. Surrey GU23 6QP (01483 211465).

The Garden History Society's Winter Lecture series starts on 4 February when Eelco Elzinga describes one of The Netherlands' most important gardens, Het Loo, near Apeldoorn. It was laid out for William and Mary in the late 17th century by the Huguenot designer Daniel Marot, who had fled from persecution in France to The Netherlands.

He quickly found his feet, for in 1686, only a year after his arrival, he was employed by William and Mary to bring a touch of French glamour to the Dutch court. He tackled architecture, interior design and the garden, making all with equal verve. His work at Het Loo was considered at the time to be the last word in modernity and style. It was the most lavish garden ever to have been seen in The Netherlands and visitors gasped, especially at the cascades and fountains - more than 50 of them. The lectures continue every Wednesday until 18 March and include talks by the garden designer Arabella Lennox-Boyd, and Philip White, director of the Hestercombe garden project. All the lectures take place at the Scientific Societies Lecture Theatre, New Burlington Place, Londoo W1, at 6pm. Tickets (£7 each) from the GHS, 77 Cowcross Street, Loodon EC1M 6BP (0171-608 2409).

Work in the garden in January is entirely at the mercy of the weather. If the ground is waterlogged (as ours is) it is better to stay off it until it dries out. But gardeners oo fast-draining soil may be able to get out and stir up the earth round their bulbs. Aconites and snowdrops are well above ground and, as a treat, can be fed with a scattering of Growmore or bonemeal. Roses can also be proned and tied in. All the old rules that used to govern rosepruning as tightly as a Masonic convention seem to have gooe by the board, bot there is a useful general rule; the weaker the growth, the stronger the ... pruning. It seems the wrong way round, but cutting a sickly rose hard back is the best way to wake it up. If, that is, it is ever going to wake up at all. It didn't work with my 'Agnes' rose.

Anna Pavord

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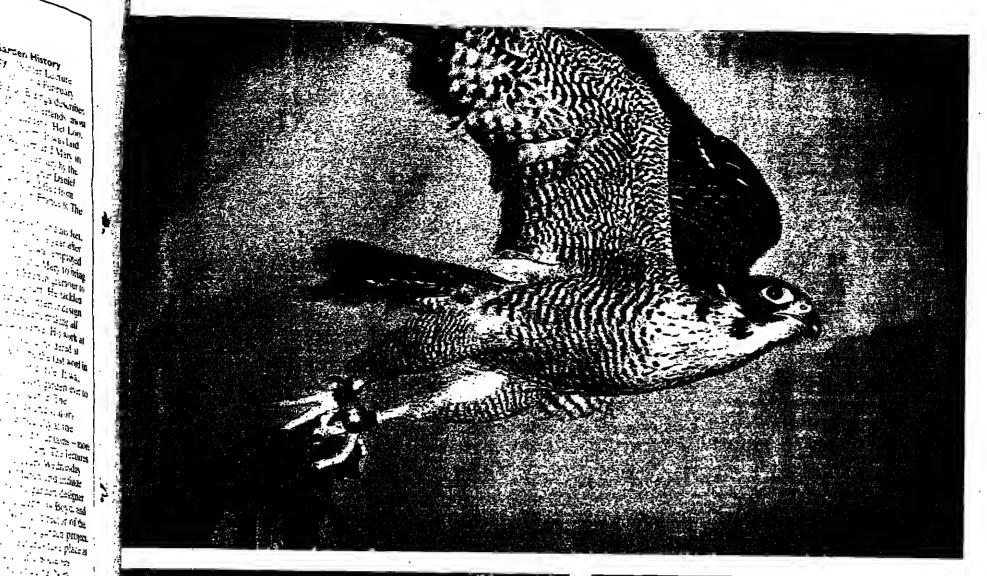
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Bird in the hand: Henry Robinson and his peregrine falcon, Shadow on hunt. Shadow is trained to circle above partner until game is flushed out for her

Christopher Jones

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### Let us prey

The falcon made a thrilling sight, but the speed with which she hurtled about the sky was terrifying. One moment she was circling overhead; the next she was half a mile away, a speck in the distance. The chances of her ever coming back seemed remote.

Shadow's weight is critical. If she gets too thin, she becomes susceptible to disease, and if she is too fat, she will not bother to hunt, hut may well fly off and sit for hours in a tree, ignoring overtures from below. Careful feeding (with raw meat) is thus essential. On the day I met her she was tipping the scales at 2lh 1oz, half an nunce above her ideal hunting trim; nevertheless, she performed with considerable panache, and led us a merry dance over the rolling hills north of Cirencester.

Shadow is a three-year-old peregrine falcon, the pride and joy of Henry Rohinson, an agreeably eccentric landowner who farms on the Cotswolds.

#### **DUFF** HART-DAVIS

He gave her the name because of her colouring, hut his children assumed he had borrowed it from the combatant in Gladiotors, and when he asked "What's Gladiators?", they fell about.

Like all the hawks being flown in Britain today, she was hred in captivity; hut she has turned out "quite a tough character", and this Henry ascribes to the fact that she was "hacked" - taken from her parents as a fledgeling, and put out with others on a hack hoard, or artificial nest, in the country.

There, in a secluded spot, she grew up without sight of humans. Food arrived daily, posted down a tube from a hide, and the young hawks made their initial flights, but always returned to the nest. After a month, when they were flying strongly and learning to kill, they were caught up and brought back to base for training.

How do you train a hawk? "With food," said Henry. "Everything's done radio signal led us deep into the wood, with food. That's how you establish a where we found her on the ground, eatbond. You can't punish a hawk. The only concept it understands is that of reward." ing a hen pheasant which she had taken out of the air.

The essential trick it must learn is to "wait on" - to circle above its human ant, and throwing it up when the hawk most beautiful creatures on earth.

is satisfactorily overhead, the human being can gradually teach the bird that it gets a reward for waiting on in the right

Henry, now in his mid-forties, was smitten by the falconty bug when still at school. Then at Worcester College, Oxford, he kept a Harris hawk - "like a faster huzzard" - which he used to fly at moorhens up and down the banks of the Cherwell

After sundry reminiscences - including one about an earlier peregrine, which disappeared nn a southerly wind and turned up three years later near Glasgow - we set off to try nur luck. With a leather hood over her head, Shadow sat quietly on a perch in the back of the Land Rover. The hells attached to the leather jesses on her legs tinkled as we went over humps, and Henry warned me that, if we got a stoop, she "might go a bit ballistic".

On a headland above a deep valley he brought the falcon out on to his gloved wrist and removed her hood, revealing magnificent eyes, huge and dark. Then he slipped her jesses and away she went, sweeping up into the wind.

Henry's spaniel had started working down a rough spinney ahead of him. Suddealy partridges called. Then two got up. Henry bounded forward, leaping over tussocks, yelling, "Hi! Hi! Hi!" and various unprintable objurgations. Like a jetpropelled arrowhead, Shadow appeared from nowhere. Down she swung in a vicious dive. She overtook one partridge as if it had been stationary, missed it by inches when it made a desperate left turn, swung up again and vanished over a wood on the far side of the valley.

Undismayed, Henry headed back towards the Land Rover for his telemetry kit, to make contact with the radio transmitter which Shadow carries on one leg. But before we reached the vehicle we heard the glad sound of bells, and in she swept, to make a few lazy passes all round us and land on the dead pheasant which he threw up as a lure,

In the afternoon another flight was enlivened by the arrival of the Cotswold Hunt, Henry was already yelling and bounding when hounds came pouring through a covert. Seconds later the air was full of pheasants speeding in all directions, and after another near miss in our view. Shadow flashed away over a conifer wood, to disappear again.

With that many targets airborne, it seemed highly probable that she had killed something, and sure enough, her

Coming home, I felt I had caught a glimpse of another world. For a few minpartner, so that if he or his dog flush- utes I had witnessed the survival of one es game, it can use gravity to acceler- of mankind's most ancient skills, and unate downwards in pursuit. By carrying derstood the thrill of hunting in loose a lure such as a dead rahhit or pheas- partnership with one of the wildest and

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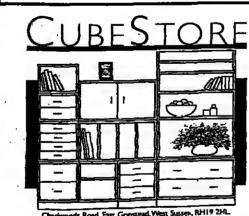
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We were so anxious and worried about keeping warm and hunting out candles we hadn't given a thought about the stairliff until bedtime when my husband said. "Id better get some bedding down, you'll have to sleep down here love." "Why?" I said. "Because the stairliff won't work will it." "Oh no" I replied, the thought of sleeping on the sofs with the wind ratting the windows almost had me in tears, then I remembered what the surveyor from Acom 0800 19 19 19.



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### On the trail of cavaliers and spooks



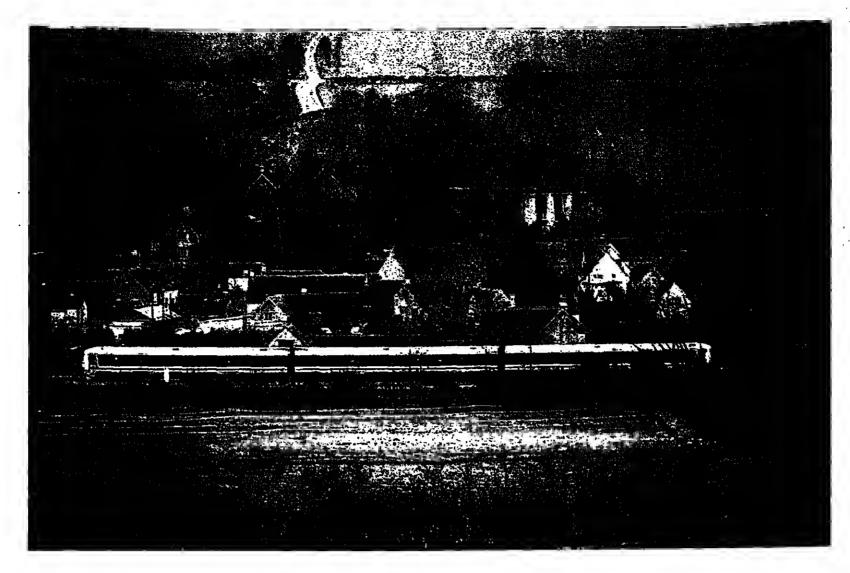
Secret forests, flooded rivers and Civil War ghosts on a train ride across middle England: Motthew Brace continues his series on great short railway journeys.

A delayed train can be a blessing. It offers you views that would normally whizz by at 100mph and lets you ponder the world outside your window. Travelling on Thames Trains this week, I became quite an experienced ponderer.

We had a signal failure, a defective freight train and a mandatory 5mph speed limit imposed without warning before 1 stopped listening to the announcements. So as we sat outside the well-to-do Oxfordshire village of Charlbury, 1 watched the cows and remarked to myself how gracefully they walked, not at all in the fat, clumsy way people often describe.

And I watched the village. Charibury is typical of the Cotswolds: all boneycoloured stone and friendly postmen. Being on the main line to Oxford and London Paddington, it has kept its high house prices and its well-off clientele. Country folk can pop up to town for work or the theatre, then retreat from the pollution to their rural boltholes.

North from the station, the line follows the River Evenlode to Moreton-in-Marsh, just over the border in Gloucestershire. The wet winter had fattened the river, which had burst its banks, spectacularly in places. It is not the widest of rivers - in fact it is more of a brook - so it could be excused for overflowing. Perhaps it got bored with its



diminutive size and relished the opportunity to spread out a little.

The track passes close by Wychwood Forest, the "Secret Cotswold Forest" as the local writer Mollie Harris called it. This is all that remains of a vast, ancient, broadleaf woodland that spread across the Midlands. Oaks from Wychwood were said to have been used for Nelson's flagships.

The line loops round beyond the trees

the new estates on the edge of Ascot-under-Wychwood slip by. The first stop was Kingham, near the village of Bledington. which boasts a Victorian maypole. As we approached, two young women opposite were talking animatedly about pensions and investments, What PEP to choose? Which life assurance?

This ride from Charlhury to the hand-

and heads west for mile or so. I watched some, small market town of Moreton-in-Marsb is short (18 minutes) and trains run roughly once an bour. Local teenagers knew Moreton as a comical place for the presence of a huilding contractor called Spook Erection, whose rude logo was a smiling ghost with a hulge in his white

The sign hung by the railway bridge on

out of business or moved, or the Cosswolds political correctness police waded in; Spook Erection is now a Budgens super-Moreton was originally Moreton Hen-

marsh and earned hrief fame on Tuesday. 2 July, 1644, during the Civil War, when King Charles 1 stayed here. A chronicler of the time wrote: "From Dedington the the way into town. Either the firm went army marched Tuesday morning, by Great

Rich country: whizzing through the Cotswolds at Photograph: John Lav

Tew where the Lord Viscount Falkland hath a faire howse, thence that night to Moreton Henmarsh where his Majestie

His Majestie lay at the White Hart Roy. al Inn on High Street, or the Fosse Way to give it its grander title, that runs through the middle of the town. The inn staff mus have been impressed with their visitor, be cause they named the bar after him, The Cavalier. Today, they say you can sit in fron of the bar's huge fireplace and sip mine strone soup with Royalist ghosts.

In two weeks' time (on Saturday, 7 Feb. ruary) there is a guided walk from More ton station starting at 10.40am and finishin, in Stow-on-the-Wold (six miles). Or, if you are a keen cyclist, the Country Lanes Cy cles Centre hires out bikes from Easter. The office is in the station.

Moreton, like many other small Cotswold towns, is an antiques buyer' dream. Some shops sell fine Jacobean chests, others scruffy railway signs and well: used kitchen tables. But, unlike its neigh bours, it is an unassuming place that seem to have escaped the snobs. Maybe Spool Erection put them off.

On the footplate

How much: Cheap day return (Charlbur - Moreton-in-Marsh): adults £4.20, children under 15 £2.10 (fares rise on 29 May) Who to call: Thames Trains 0345 484950 or (to book tickets) 0345 300700, or (for disabled travel) 0118 908 3607 at least 72 hours in advance. Country Lanes Cycle Centre 01608 650065. Guided walks with the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty service on 01452 425674.

#### **GAMES**

#### WILLIAM HARTSTON PEDANTS' CORNER - REFUTATIONS AND DENIALS

On Wednesday, Geoffrey Boycott said that he refuted all allegations of girlfriend-battering that were made against him. On Thursday, Mr Clinton, according to this newspaper "refuted charges of having an affair with Monica Lewinsky". It's enough to make a pedant despair. Neither Mr Llinton nor Sir Geomey reluted anything at all They denied, they repudiated, they rejected, they rebuffed - but they didn't refute.

To refute means, as any good dictionary will tell you, to prove wrong. A dictionary whose standards are slipping may also mention the "colloquial" usage of "refute" as meaning "deny". But is this really one of those words on which we linguistic purists should surrender? When Fowler wrote his Modern English Usage in

1926, he gave one brief paragraph to the word "refute", quoting the following sentence: "He sharply refuted the suggestion and said that he could produce ample evidence that it was wholly without foundation". Fowler's terse comment was: "He could refute the suggestion only by producing the evidence; till then be could only deny it."

Despite this clear advice, however, by the time Robert Burchfield came to revise Fowler in 1996, a

considerably expanded entry was needed. After explaining "the traditional meaning" of refute, Burchfield says: "At some point in the second half of the 20th century, however, traditionalists began to notice that people outside an educated social divide were heginning to use refute as a simple synonym of deny. He quotes an enraged letter to the Spectator in 1986: "In Mr Chancellor's day someone who didn't know the difference between 'refute' and 'deny' wouldn't have been employed by the Spectator as an office cleaner, let alone as a television critic."

The skirmishing continues, says Burchfield. "The likelihood that the new use represents a legitimate semantic shift is rejected by the traditionalists. Those who have no idea what a semantic shift might be, like the sound of refute, and will continue to use it in its partially standard new way. I have an uneasy feeling that the new sense will begin to sound normal in the 21st century - hut not yet."

So what should we, proudly standing on the right side of the socio-linguistic tracks, and on first name terms with any number of semantic shifts, do about misused refutations? We have three options:

1) Wince and bear it, accepting, as Burchfield

appears to, that the hattle is all hut lost. Until the final defeat, our own refutations will, of course, still be accompanied with all the necessary paperwork. hut we shall do no more than sigh when others refute when they should be simply denying.

2) Fight on, insisting that the distinction blurred. We do not need another word meaning the same as "deny", but we ought not to deny ourselves a word with the original meaning of "refute". Even "rehut" does not quite have the force of "refute". After a tebuttal (denial with argument), the rally might continue. A refutation should he absolute.

3) Adopt the course advocated by Chambers Guide to Grammar and Usage which advises "To avoid ambiguity ... it is necessary either to avoid the word refute altogether, or to make sure that there is sufficient information in the rest of the passage to make the intended meaning clear."

The following argument, 1 think, refutes both 1) and 3): In a few months' time President Clinton may appear in court to answer an allegation, from Ms Paula Jones, that his penis is curved. He will probably deny it. But just think of the shock if he refutes it. It really is an important difference.

#### PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Antony Jay, 67, co-author of 'Yes Minister'

At one stage 1 was a bridge obsessive. 1 have something in me that is rather competitive: I actually care more about winning than 1 think a properly balanced person should.

ed masses of sames at hoard school. Three or four of us were really keen on L'Attaque, a game in which you were either the French or the English. Dover Patrol was the naval version, with mine-sweepers; or we'd play a massive thing called Tri-Tactics which was too much for all of us. It had an army, a navy and an air force to be deployed against the other side.

Thinking about it now, why weren't we playing games about fighting the Germans? It was 1940, and we'd already had one war against them, and bere we were, fighting the French.

I suppose they're our traditional enemy. If you remember, during the Battle of Sebastopol in the Crimea, Lord Ragian kept referring to the Russians - who were the enemy - as the French - who were our allies.

He did that even at conferences with the French generals. Everybody was so used to fighting the French. It goes back to the Norman Conquest, probably, all Henry V and that sort of thing.

I think there's still an inclination in the itish, that if we have to fight a European country, we'd rather fight the French than the Germans, despite the evidence of two world wars. They're nearer, so they're more of a

Animal behaviourists tell us that young cubs play fighting games with each other to prepare for attacking proper animals, for survival as adults. I think there's an element of that in board games. Life is partly about pitting your wits against other people, and games are a kind of preparation. You feel you're doing intellectually what other animals

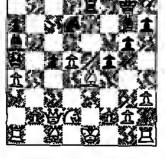
If you need to pit your wits against officialdom, you may pick up some useful hints from Antony Jay's book 'How to Beat Sir Humphrey' - £6.99 from Long Barn Books.

#### CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

The 22-year-old Bulgarian grandmaster Veselin Topalov has been consistently ranked among the world's top half-adozen players for the past couple of years. His aggressive and imaginative style bas made him one of the most exciting players to watch as well as one of the most successful, yet so far at least be seems to bave lacked the all-round strategic depth needed to establish himself as a serious contender for the world title. He can wipe strong players from the board in hrilliant style, but he does not seem to win those long. gruelling games that are the mark of a true heavyweight super-grandmaster.

Topalov's win against Lock van Wely in the third round at Wijk aan Zee is typical of his style. Playing Black in his favourite Modern Benoni, he sacrificed a pawn with 9...b5 (routine), then a piece with 11...Nxe4 (fairly conventional), then threw a rook in as well with 13...Qa5 and 14...Nd7 (outrageously imaginative).

The net result was the diagram position, after 16...Rxe8. Black is a rook and a pawn down, but will win the hishop on e4. The important feature, however, is the white king trapped in the centre, thanks to the effect of the bishop on a6. With his king under constant threat, van Wely was never given a chance to co-ordinate his forces and finally had to give

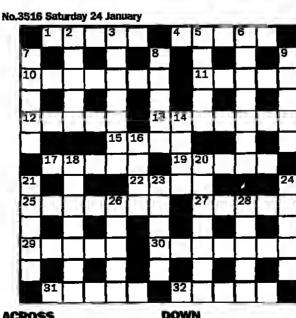


back his material gains with interest. I do not know whether Black's play was completely correct, but even if not, it all added up to a highly impressive performance from Topalov.

White: Lock van Wely Black: Veselin Topalov

1 d4 Nf6	26 Kxc1 Rx
2 c4 e6	27 Rd1 Qc6
3 N£3 c5	28 Kb1 Nxa
4 d5 d6	29 Oxc6 Rx
5 Nc3 exd5	30 Rd8+ K
6 cxd5 g6	31 Rd7+ K
7 h3 Bg7	32 h4 Nc5
8 e4 0-0	33 Rf7 Ne6
9 Bd3 b5	34 Ka2 Ra6
10 Nxb5 Re8	35 Kb1 Nd4
11 Nd2 Nxe4	36 Rf4 Nf5
12 Bxe4 Ba6	37 Re4 Rd6
13 a4 Qa5	38 Kc2 Ng3
14 Nxd6 Nd7	39 Rg4 Nf1
15 Oc2 f5	40 Kc3 Ne3
16 Nxe8 Rxe8	41 Rg5 Nf5
17 Kd1 fxe4	42 Rg4 Kh5
18 Ra3 c4	43 b4 Ne3
19 Re3 Oxd5	44 Rd4 Rxd
20 Rxe4 Rf8	45 Kxd4 Nc.
21 f3 Nc5	46 Ke5 Nxb
22 Re7 Bf6	47 Kf6 Nd5-
23 Rxa7 c3	48 Kg7 Ne3
24 Rxa6 cxd2	White resign
25 Rxf6 dxc1((	
TOTAL METAL	4 <i>1</i> T

#### CONCISE CROSSWORD



#### **ACROSS**

Cheerful (5) Snug (5) 10 Form of sugar (7) 11 Passenger vehicle (5) Machine tool (5) Morally strict person (7) Metallic element (4) Polish (5) 19 Cake topping (5) 22 Poker stake (4) Cap ribbon (7) Representation (5) Subtraction sign (5) Newspapers (7) Heatproof glass (5)

32 Once more (5)

Berkshire racecourse (5) Type of radio programme (5-2)
Become liable for (5) Encourage (7) Religious song (5) Time (mus.) (5) Leather strap (5) · 14 Small detachment (4) 16 Study (4) 18 London borough (7)

20 Upper limit (7)

24 Lines of poetry (5)

21 Rascal (5)

23 In want (5)

26 Passage (5) 28 Legal defence (5)

Solution to yesterday's Coucise Crossword: ACROSS: 5 Sylph, 8 Aligning (Silver lining), 9 Place, 10 Gridiron, 11 Cleft, 14 Sea, 16 Scroll, 17 Signed, 18 Yak, 20 Idiot, 24 Aperture, 25 Amass, 26 Ice-cream, 27 Scald. DÖWN: 1 Gauge, 2 Minis, 3 Unfit, 4 Encore, 6 Yule logs, 7 Pacified, 12 Academic, 13 Colossal, 14 Sly, 15 Ask, 19 Alpaca, 21 Trick, 22 Rupee, 23 Jemmy.

#### BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON

Game all; dealer South North **◆**AKQ7 OK 9.2 ♦10973 East **◆**J95 **•**632 ♥J53 ♥A 1086 ♦842 **≎65** ♣J 1096 **♣**8542 1084 ♥Q74 **♦AKQJ** 

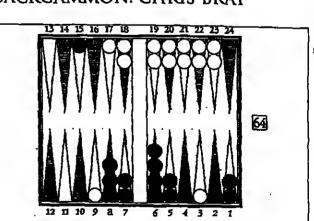
If you (as South) and your partner had hid accurately to Six Diamonds on this deal from match play, you might expect a small loss if your opponents had tried Six No-trumps instead. The diamond slam needed either 3-2 diamonds or, if they were 4-1, an even spade hreak. In Six No-trumps, however, a 3-3 spade break seemed essential and, as the cards lay, how could declarer have any problem?

At the other table, North-South had indeed bid the slam in No-trumps, but West was able to introduce a tiny diversion into the play - and South fell for it hook, line and sinker. So what happened after West made the natural lead of #J?

After winning, South started by cashing two of dummy's top spades and, lo and behold, the jack fell from West on the second round. Clearly, thought South, the spades were 4-2 and East still held \$9.6. So he came to hand with \$10 and was suitably infuriated when both opponents followed. The ♥K failed to provide the now much-needed entry to dummy when east refused to win ♥Q, and declarer ended with only 11 tricks.

Yes, it was a cunning move by West to drop ♠ J on the second round, but if South proposed to lead a third round of the suit, he should have come to hand first before leading ♠ 10. Then when West follows sheepishly with his 9, the 10 can safely he overtaken.

#### BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY



When deciding whether to take a double, the basic rule is that you must expect to be able to win 25 per cent of the games. That figure is valid only in cases where you do not expect to lose many gammons, but let's not complicate things for the moment. Because the next roll after a double is usually crucial, a good way to evaluate a position is to look at a crosssection of 36 games (the number of possible dice rolls) and estimate whether you can win nine of them.

Take this position from the recent Biba tournament at Brighton. Double Fives aficionado Julian Fetterlein was playing White against a weaker player when he ventured a double. His opponent should have reasoned as follows:

"How many games out of 36 can 1 win? Julian has a direct shot at a blot which, if be hits it, would guarantee winning the game and maybe a few, but not very many, gammons. So he has 17 good numbers (all 6's, 22, 33, 42, 24, 51, 15). But what of the race? Before the roll I lead 91-100. If Julian doesn't hit the shot the race is likely to be about even with me on roll,  $Q_T$ nine of his numbers (11, 12, 21, 13, 31, 14, 41, 23, 32) I will ge a shot at his hlot, and he still has a man trapped in my board. "Of the 19 numbers where Julian doesn't hit my blot 1 am a substantial favourite, especially as I own the cube. I estimate that I could win 14 or 15 of those 19 games. I only need to wi nine games to be able to accept the double, therefore I take.

Sadly for him, his reasoning went away and he dropped, it fear of the direct shot dominating his thinking. Full marks to Julian for an aggressive double which paid dividends. It is on by evaluating the position methodically that you can reach the correct decision. Jellyfish, incidentally, evaluates the position as No double/ take, preferring to double out its opponent if

### Great Chieftain o' the puddin'-race

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General Conspiate

Tomorrow is Burns Night - but before you grab a haggis and a bottle of single malt, spare a thought for Burnsians. Robert Burns's poetry has stood the test of time, but keeping his name alive owes a lot to the tradition of formal celebrations, as Jennifer Rodger discovered.

The majestic sound of bagpipes introduces a frugal dish - and so begins Burns Supper. The tradition originated in 1780, when Robert Burns founded the Bachelors' Debating Club in Tarbolton for any "cheerful, honest-hearted lad, who if he has a friend that is true and a mistress that is kind, and as much wealth as genteely to make both ends meet - is just as happy as this world can make him". After Burns's death, a cult quickly grew, and suppers were held based on the lively ethos of the Bachelors' Club.

When Burns died, 50,000 people lined the streets of Dumfries to watch his funeral cortège go by. Since then more than 2,000 editions of his poems and songs have been published. His popularity shows no signs of waning; last year "A Red, Red Rose" was chosen as the nation's third favourite poem.

The first official Burns club was established in 1801; there are now 400 worldwide, and more than half a million Burns Suppers are held every year.

Burns's biographer, Hugh Douglas, warns in his Burns Supper Companion, "... when to start [planning]. If you are reading this on 26 January, then it is not a minute too soon." The sheer number of clubs means that the Burns season can last until February. David Smith, honorary secretary of the Burns Federation, began plans a year ago for the Burns Howff Club Supper at the Globe Inn. Dumfries. This year's speaker of the Immortal Memory toast, the Scottish Secretary of State Donald Dewar, was asked to attend five years ago. The affair is held in Robert Burns's favourite "howff", or watering-bole. The supper is traditional: the haggis is piped in, a recitation of "To A Haggis" is made, then the "Immortal Memory" and toasts to the Lassies are spoken.

The Glasgow Thistle Hotel holds half a dozen major Burns Suppers in January. "The most important thing is to put on a good show of warm hospitality," says Tim Hunt, the manager. "Burns was a poet for mankind; he wanted us all to be brothers."

The largest Burns Supper in the world was held on 17 January this year, for 1,000 people. The International Burus Supper organisation has taken Burns to Russia, America and England. "Burns was a Communist, a man who believed in the brotherhood of man," says Mr Campbell, the honorary president. "His poetry may have been incomprehensible in

Russian, but they knew the sentiment." The only cloud on the horizon is that subsequent generations may find Burns's language impenetrable. The Burns Federation is already taking steps to avoid such a disaster. One such initiative is West Sound's trophy for Young Burnsian of the Year. This year there were 165,000 entries.

At West Sound's Supper, the former Beirut hostage Tom Sutherland spoke the "Immortal Memory". Describing the solace Burns's poems gave him during his imprisonment, Sutherland said: "On and on the memories came, so many hours did Burns fill my mind and heart and bring the company of past suppers and friends, that I made it through to the next day."

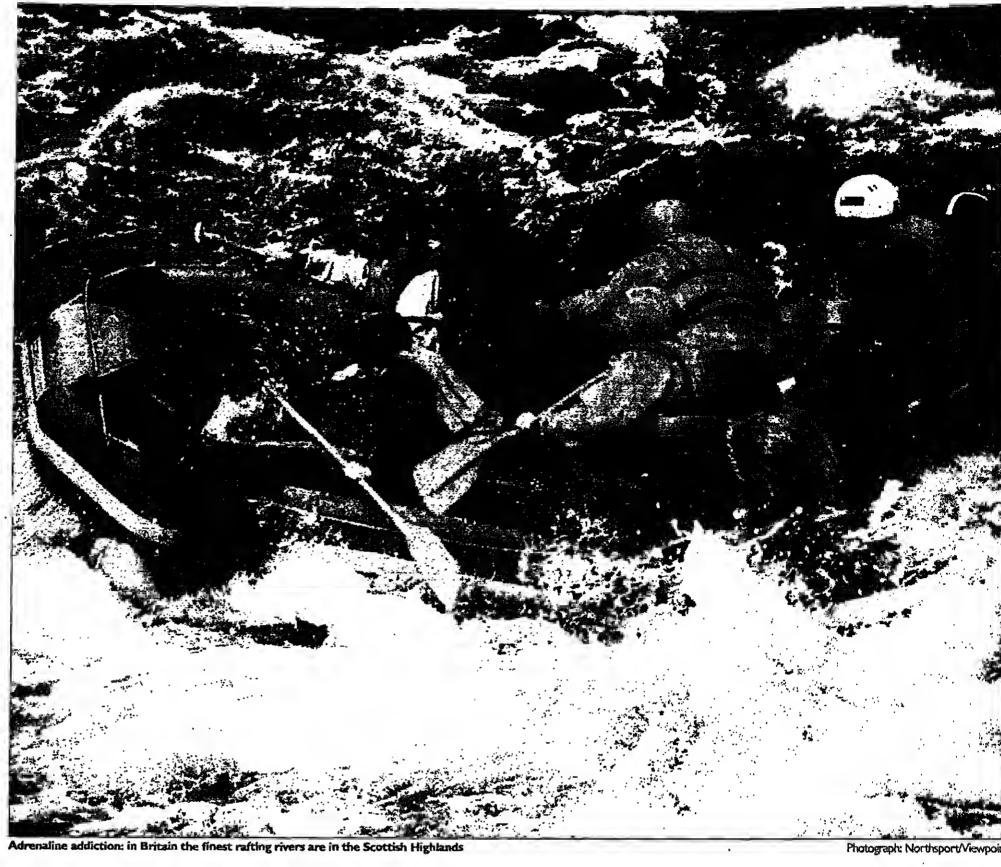
Ingredients for a Burns Supper Haggis (Safeway has a special offer, Hall's haggis, 454g, 99p; for non-meat eaters, Savacentre offers MacKintosh's vegetarian haggis, 454g, at 99p). Chapit tatties (mashed potato); mashed neeps (swede); whisky, and, of course, Burns's poetry. Hugh Douglas's Burns Supper Companion (Johnnie Walker/ Alloway Publishing, Ayr) includes important poems.

Order of service

A piper plays as the main guests enter in procession, and the Selkirk Grace is said: "Some hae meat and canna eat/ And some wad eat that want it:/ But we hae meat and we can eat/ And sae the Lord by thankit."

The haggis is carried in, preceded by the piper. The chef is offered a glass of whisky, and at this point the "Ode To A Haggis" is read: "Fair fa' your honest, sousie face/ Great Chieftain o' the Puddin-racel/ Aboon them a' ye tak your place/ Painch, tripe or thairm:/ Weel are ye wordy of a grace/ As lang's my arm." Then the meal begins.

Toasts at the supper to the second se The "Immortal Memory", a toast to the works or life of Burns, usually lasts 20-30 Minutes. Hugh Douglas writes: "If the speaker succeeds then he will have inspired de Wireland Committee Comm his audience to try to rediscover their true selves, to think more kindly about their fellow men ..." The Lasses, O: a toast to the ladies. The Lasses: the ladies reply.



Photograph: Northsport/Viewpoir

### Nature's foam bath

You're out of control, plunging into utter turbulence - and you're high on adrenaline. Even in Scotland, writes Hamish Scott, white-water rafting is addictive.

The deep, slow-flowing river seems deceptively benign as you drift downstream through broad meanders. Occasionally you paddle with a gentle rhythm, keeping time with your companions to negotiate an eddy or some placid pool, hut more usually the bulbous rubber raft follows its own nose along the currents like a lazy cart-horse plodding a familiar

Lulled into a dream of riverine contentment, you feel ahsurdly overdressed in wet-suit. life-jacket and crash-helmet ... until the current sweeps you gently round another bend and you see what lies ahead.

A swollen wall of water an-

nounces the approaching rapids. Beyond, the river plummets out the guide, as he steers the raft mid-stream.

For a moment you retain some semblance of control before the prow tiles briefly to the sky, any guide will reassure particithen dips and plunges down into the maelstrom. Now you're living for each second

Paddles racket off the foaming rocks, spray hits you in the face and the raft carcers over another lip. Braced against the impact, you paddle frantically, halanced like a rider on a bucking bronco and whooping with exhilaration as the torrent rips and huffets through the gorge.

"Down!" The guide's command is scarcely audible above the roar. Six bodies throw themselves into the belly of the raft, which lurches upwards in a final fling, then thuds into a swirling pool of deep, untroubled water. As you struggle back into a dignified position and wipe the spray out of your eyes, the guide is still

"That was the Washing Maof sight. "Hard forward!" shouts chine," he says. "Grade three- cent members of the public to the plus. The next one's rather more exciting."

Excitement is the essence of

white-water rafting, although, as pants, the real risks involved are slight. Modern rafts, tough inflatables with multiple flotation chambers, are virtually unsinkable when commanded by a skilful helmsman, and, so long as proper safety gear is worn, even a brief ducking in the water should injure little more than pride. This is not, however, the impression gathered by a novice who has never, in the usual course of life,

orable. Most guides employed by reputable rafting companies are skilled white-water kayakers whose idea of a mild challenge would be to overturn without a paddle above a cataract in an Andean carryon. As rafting guides

plunged head-first down a wa-

terfall. The experience is mem-

poised nonchalantly on the stern. they can both subsidise their habit, and introduce quite innoadrenaline-fuelled roots of their plain. addiction. After being churned Travelling for two days down and hurtled through the Washing Machine, dry land can feel a lit-

> cycle is imperative. In Britain, the finest rafting rivers are in the Scottish Highlands, most particularly the Tay and River Orchy. With the severity of rapids graded one to six, Grandfully on the Tay merits three, quite sufficient for most undeveloped tastes, while some stretches of the Orchy can be virtually ungradable in autumn flood. But the pleasure to be found in rafting does not entirely lie in momentary terror. Rivers are man's oldest highways, and

tle dull, and, for many, a further

found in negotiating a long watercourse from mountainside to

the Tummel and the Tay, camping overnight on lonely riverbanks, the rafter can experience an almost prehistoric sense of place within an ever-changing landscape that presents some new delight or challenge with each turn of the current. There is still a wild Britain, not glimpsed from any motorway.

For true addicts of white water the most intense experiences are, however, found abroad. The alpine streams that radiate from Briancon in France are perhaps the best in western Europe, but even they cannot compare with the Marsyangdi, the "raging rivthere is a primeval sense of sat- er" of Nepal that cataracts conditions. Call 01887 830633.

isfaction and discovery to be through endless miles of Himalayan gorges. Trips through this remote area must be booked at least six months in advance. Alternatively, the Zambezi river in Zimbabwe offers an exciting challenge in a climate that precludes the need for any wetsuit.

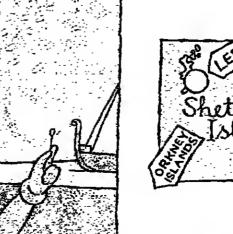
River-deep and mountainhigh, the world is foaming with white water, and experience is not required for its enjoyment. Just steady nerves, life-jacket and crash beimet ... and a trusted

Splash White Water Rafting (01887 829706) organises year-round trips in Scotland, Europe, Africa and Asia.

The Scottish Rafting Association will provide up-to-date information on rafting activities and river

### WHAT, WHEN, WHERE?

Go north to the Shetland Islands and party in style at the Up-Helly-Aa fire festival in Lerwick, a reminder of the days when Norse settlers celebrated the end of the yule holidays. Bands of guisers (Shetlanders in Viking kit) led by their chief, the Guiser Jarl, parade town before setting alight a 30-ft longship in the harbour. Viking revelry follows throughout the night at various venues, including the Town Hall, which stipulates that stiletto heels are not allowed, although presumably spiky helmets are. Up-Helly-Aa takes place on Tuesday 27 January. More information from the Shetland Islands Tourism Office (01595 693434). Sally Kindberg





THE INDEPENDENT

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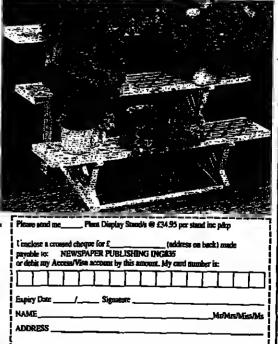
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# 14/RACING

# HAYDOCK HYPERION 2.45 Sparkling Cone 3.20 Flying Instructor 12.45 Kadou Nonantais 1.15 Collier Bay (nb) 3.50 Festive Teak 1.45 Indian Tracker 2.15 Paddy's Return GOING: Soft (Heavy in places on Hurdles course). Left-hand course with imposing drop fences and run-in of two furlongs. Course is near junction of A580 and M6. Newton station 2m. ADMISSION: County Stand E17; Tatlessalls 210; Newton Stand 25 (QAPs half-price in Tatlessalls and Newton Stand ETF, latins 988 ETJ, Newton Stand 25 (CAP'S Hearth Associated), CAR PARK: Free. © LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 27 winners from 125 numers (218%), G Richards 24-88 (245%), N Twiston-Davies 18-67 (289%), D Nicholson 14-54 (259%), G LEADING JOCKEYS: C Liewellyn 12 wins from 45 fides (26.7%), P Niven 10-72 (13.9%), C Maude 9-40 (22.5%), L Wyer 9-58 (5.5%), E Callaghan 4-10 (40%). © FAVOURITIES: 140 wins from 331 races (42.3%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None. 12.45 NORTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) \$23,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Valua \$2,516 E) £3,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Valua £2,516 1 PP-PP1 EASEY JOKER (29) (D) (G R Occard) S Kettlewell to R R N Williamson 2 TI KADOU NONANTAIS (FR) (24) (D 8 G Mercer) O Shewood 5 TI TI JA McCarthy 3 QUOT MANESTIES SOURCE (SS) (C) (Lord Lawritume) I Forum 7 TI TI JR Johnson 4 308102 TAMARINDO (FR) (2) (D A Johnson) M Ppe 5 TI TI R Johnson 5 PP- BOLD STREET (F189) (Codan Tiust Company Limited) M Ppe 5 TI 6 JW Delocite 6 DISPOL PRINCE (F189) (Robert E Cody) G Cidroyd 5 TI 6 PM Noticelley (3) 7 0000/ FLYING FREDDIE (691) (J F Wright) R Bestiman 7 TI 6 PP Noticelley (3) 8 0072-4 JUST ONE QUESTION (25) (Arms Duchess of Westmarske) JJ O'Nell 8 TI 6 A Debblin 10 IN KONGS MEASURE (28) (J H Wilson M Sifect, O Biocett) JM Jefferson 5 TI 6 L Wyer 17 PG-PO MIDDLE BAY (25) (Brace Partmerish) D Moritait 7 TI 6 Doublist 18 1201- SUPPLEME (SPNOTIN (229) (3F) (W E Surt) J Dút 6 TI 6 Doublist 19 12201- SUPPLEME (SPNOTIN (229) (3F) (W E Surt) J Dút 6 TI 6 C Doublist 19 12201- SUPPLEME (SPNOTIN (229) (3F) (W E Surt) J Dút 6 TI 6 C Dublist 19 12201- SUPPLEME (SPNOTIN (229) (3F) (W E Surt) J Dút 6 TI 6 C Lievelly 19 14 4-3 SWEET LEDD (73) 0 S Networking Solutions Lich M Braditiot 7 TI 8 C Lievelly 19 15 55000 SIDE BY SIDE (58) (Simon Brown) C Thomson 5 TI 1 D Pares 1-18 destrind 18 destrind 18 TING: 2-1 Kings Measure, 5-2 Kadou Monantais, 7-2 Tamesindo, 6-1 Majestic Sound, 16-1 Sweet Lord, 12-1 Supreme Genotic, 14-1 Tam's River, Easity Jolac, 20-1 Just One Orestion, 25-1 officers 1997. Harbour Island 5 TI 8 C Meade 3-1 (M Ppe) 14 ran 1.15 HAYDOCK TRAVELLING THE TURF BBC1 CHAMPION HURDLE TRIAL (Grade 2) (CLASS BBC1 A) £20,000 added 2m Penaity Value £12,380 KEMPTON 1.00 King On The Run 3.10 Easy Listening 1.30 Ebullient Equiname 3.40 Greenback 2.05 WORLD EXPRESS (nap) 4.10 Matchless 2,35 Kadastrof GCINC: Chases – Good to Soft; Hurdies – Soft (Good to Soft in places). Right-hand course, Practically flat, Run-in of 200yds. Course is on A308 at Surbury, (Bording Day only: Bus link from Richmond Underground station.) Kempton Park rahway station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £16; Tattersalls £12; Silver Ring £5. Accompanied children under 16 trea., CAR PARIC Members £2; remeinder, free. ■ LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 20-80 (25%), N Henderson 13-78 (16.7%), K Balloy 12-54 (22.2%), R Alner 11-36 (28.9%), N Twiston-Davios 11-65 (16.9%). ■ LEADING JOCKEYS: M A Fitzgerald 21-118 (178%), R Danwoody 16-94 (17%), A P McCoy 9-74 (12.2%), A Thomton 7-29 (24.1%), G Bradley 6-58 (10.3%). ■ FAVOURTIES: 12-307 (40.4%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None. MIDDLESEX NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added

This is tight with the three principals all at their best in teating ground. DATO STAR, the Cheltenham Festival bumper withiner and second to Mistinguett in this last year when the ground was too fast for him, has twice win on his reappearance, and connections rate his chance highly today with the mud very much in the geldings tayour He should be up to the task, especially as it is difficult to tell who will win the battle bettern Relikeel and Collier Bay. Mud is very much made to order for the 1996 Champion hundler Collier Bay, Mud is very much made to order for the 1996 Champion hundler Collier Bay, Mud is very much made to order for the 1996 Champion hundler Collier Bay, Mud is very much made to order for the 1996 Champion hundler Collier Bay, Mud is very much made to order last season and is now 11b better off. Relikee hit back at Cheltenham on his first run shoe when, despite a horrible blunder at the final flight, he quickened up to beat Privated and Collier Bay. That ground was again too last for Collier Bay, but Relikeel is also a better horse when the mud is flying. Relikeel was back to his best at Cheltenham, but Collier Bay wasn't beaten far and is has to be tight be tween them today with Jim Old's campaigner now being in to better in Indefence is likely to be too rustly to trouble the principals, and allowing Wind cannot be entertained or his two showings after his runs in France.	
1.45 PETER MARSH LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE BBC1	

Service included the state of	•=
1.45 PETER MARSH LIMITED HANDICA (Grade 2) (CLASS A) £40,000 a Penalty Value £25,408	AP CHASE BBC1
1 F2-118 SEMPLY DASHING (42) (C) (BP) (Steve Hammond) T Ea	sates/by 7 ft 10 L Wyer 🔓
Aed, white sash, emerald green aleanes, white armitots, 2 PG-136 BANAIO (FR) (25) (C) (Damen C Marcer) O Nicholson 6 the Black, white hoose, back aleanes, white	16 R Johnson B
6 212-43 EUDIPE (FR) (56) (C) (D A Johnson) M Pipe 6 11 5	A P McCoy B
A SP/331 EARTH SUMMET (20) (CD) (The Summet Partnership) N	Tweston-Davies 10 10 13. T Jeniks B
Black, yellow segms and gleeves, quester 5 P2PO-3 MANTHEN LAD (23) (C) (J Steer) Nos J Pitmon D 10 11 While, black store, while pleaves, black	
6 21-52P HARWELL LAD (14) (D) (H Wellstead) R Ainer 9 10 10 Red, white Stephen, and Stephen,	Mr R Nuttell 4
7 140-20 GENERAL WOLFE (50) (CD) (Winning Une Racing Limit White, black scenes, while and yellow halved steen	ed) T Forster 6 10 10 N Williamson
6 P-PS4U GO BALUSTIC (1) (D) (Mrs 8 J Lockfert) J O'Shea 9 10 Ruspotes and sting diagnosis.	9 A Dobbin
9 2TRI2 STRATH NOVAL (9) (0) (BP) (Lady Arne Bentholy O B Block white aboves, block cap, white di	
10 120-25 INDIAN TRACKER (28) (Joe & Joerne Richards) M Pros	6106 CMeude 1

BETTING: 4-1 Indian Tracker, 9-2 Natithen Led, 5-1 Excipe, St 7-1 Earth Summit, 8-1 Strath Royal, 10-1 Barrjo, 16-1 Harvest L 1987: Jodens 12 11 10 N Williamson 9-2 (P Beaumont) 8 ran FORM GUIDE

1897: Jodemi 12 to 10 N Williamson 9-2 (P Beaumont) 8 ran FORIM GUIDE

EARTH SUMMITT looks solid efter reauming to his best to land the Welsh Nebonal in ground similar to today's. With The Grey Monk coming out the weights have gone up 80 which makes matters tought for Stimply Deathing, who is trying the trip for the first time. So impressive after the blunder when he best Fine Thyre at Ascot, he does look up against it with the weight in ground to the has yet to win on. Earth Summits win coincided with the revival of the stables fortunes and he can plug away again in the resting ground to outstay this opposition off a 4th higher handisep rating, Indian Tracker will have a following over the shorter trip after tolding up at Chapattow after being up with the leaders throughout. Seaton 30 lengths by Earth Summit, he now enjoys a 4th pull and must go well here with his forcing tactics off bottom weight Indian Tracker's stablemate Eudipe was on test ground when he finished second in the Royal SunAliance Chaes last season. He did better than General Wolfe when third to Suny Bay in the Hernessy but he may not be good enough here with 11st 5th. General Wolfe has won here twice and his second on the course to Suny Bay on his reappearance gives him a chance with the emphases so much on stamen. Nainthem Lad, the SunAliance where in 1996, entimed to action with a fine third to Pete The Parson over an inadequate trip at Cheltonham on New Year's Dur. The is more his sort of race and fost 11b is a decent weight for him. Bampo makes irnited appeal with 11st 6th even with the return of the headgeer, and Strath Royal may find the too tough efter failing to beet River Mandate at Wetherby lest time. Harwell Lad is on the same mark as his excellent second to Cool Dawn at Ascot but the testing ground is against hitrs.

	2.15 TOTE PREMIER LONG DISTANCE HURDLE BBC1
P	(Grade 2) (CLASS A) £20,000 added
	2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £12,320
5	1 100-22 OCEAN HAWK (23) (CD) (M Archer & Miss J Broadhurst) N T-Davies 6 11 10 C Llowellyn
3	) into this, married reference basined classics, field this and married California California (
	2 31-251 PADDY'S RETURN (SS) (D) (P O'Dornell) F Murchy 6 11 10
i	Emerald green, while hoops and steams, orange calp
ŧ	3 222-21 MIGHTY MOSS (23) (K Hustry) D Micholson 7 11 7
2	Light this, while armies, check cap
k	4 PF2M BUCKHOUSE BOY (1) (The Bawtry Boys) D Michobon 6 to 3
-	White, large dark blue spots, red cap
۰	-4 declared -
1	SETTING: 8-11 Pedsy's Return, 11-4 Mighty Moss, 3-1 Ocean Hawk
₹	1997: Ocean Hawk 5 11 10 C Liewallyn evens tav (N Twiston-Dawes) 5 raft
	FORM GUIDE
1	MIGHTY MOSS is fancied to best Peddy's Return in this ground. Peddy's Return, the
ı	1996 Triumph Hurdle winner, was impressive when beating Pridwell in the Long Walk at
1	Ascot lest trne, but this ground will be more testing and Mighty Mass continues to look
	the business in the staying department. The pair will be crossing swords again at the Chaltenham Festival, but today is a sigg in the mud and Fred Hutsby can steer Mighty
ſ	Moss to another win after the Cheltenham success from Ocean Hawk. A 5lb pull puls
	Conso House in with a chruit on the honk for the head detect, but Ocean Case is underly 1
3	to do any hetter on this muririer surface. Selection: MCR1 7 MUSS 1
	2.45 ALLEN PLC NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £10,500 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £7,165
3	2 45 ALLEN PLC NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) E10,300 access
	2m 4t Penanty Value 17,100
•	4 D 4 D 4 CHENTER OLD COM Coming Codes à M Today 11 17
,	2 1.236 TRIBIALI DAMENTO AND RESTAR F. Casel M. PIOR R. T. T
•	3 AC-11 COADIO DAG COME CON COLON AND MINOR VIVIENTED TOTAL TRANSMISSION I
	4 22/333 FEELS LIKE GOLD (9) (Independent Twine Manufacturing) G Richards 10 11 4
	5 4633- ONE WORD (276) (Berkshire Commercial Components Ltd) D Williams 5 11 4_Mir S Durack.
	SETTING: 15-8 Speriding Cone, 9-4 Physii Dancer, 7-2 Chipped Out, Feels Like Gold, 16-1 One Word
	1997: Simply Dashing 8 to 12 R Durmondy 2-7 tay (T Easterby) 4 ran
n.	MAN SHIP IN THE PROPERTY OF THE MANNEY OF THE
	3 20 ANNUAL BADGEHOLDERS' CLUB HANDICAP CHASE

3.20 (CLASS B) £10,500 added 2m Penalty Value £6,964 SETTING: 9-4 Lake Kariba, 5-2 Flying Instructor, 4-1 Bernegeers Boy, Thembs Up, 7-1 No. Prince, 14-1 Meple Dancer 1997 Konvekta King 6 10 13 R Dunwoody 5-2 lav (O Sherwood) 5 ran. 3.50 HAYDOCK STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) 21,750 added 2m Penalty Value £1,609 ET./50 SIGGEO 2TH PERSITY VISIDE 1,1005

Fit PESTIVE TEAK (25) (CD) (Darron C Mercer) D Nicholaun 6 29 R Managey (5) ADMANCED STEEL (Partick Buring Developments Ltd), R Woodhouse 5 11 4 W Darring CHOICE CUT (Harvey Ashworth) T Calched 5 11 4 A Donnor (5) CHOICE CUT (Harvey Ashworth) T Calched 5 11 4 A DONNOR (5) FREDOEN (Darring large) Pesche 5 11 4 M Darring (5) SPOOPS (MY GAME (Peter G Gorve)) T Easherby 5 11 4 M Darring (5) THOUGH (25) (Timothy N Chick) T George 6 11 4 R Johnston 6 WELDUNGFANK (15) (P M MCCompact) W M Bristocure 5 11 4 M WHENDERSON (5) BRYMAR LASS (26) (Fichard Half P R Wictor 6 10 10 J A McCarthy MEMONAN SPRING (Line 8 Loarne Richards) M Poe 6 10 13 C Management (1) Hook (7) J Hook (7) J Hook (7) J Hook (7) J Hook (7)

— 11 cacumen —
BETTING: 4-6 Feative Teak, 7-2 Indian Spring, 6-1 The Pickled Duka, 16-1 Spoof's My Game, 12-1
New Religene, 14-1 Brymar Lass, 20-1 others
1997, Cobor Code 5 rt ft J Supple 10-11 tov (Mrs A Swinbenk) 8 ran

1.00 2m 5f Penalty Value	3,074
1 2013 BRACEY RUN (14) (Doublechit) J (	Old 6 11 4 M A Fitzgerald is) O Nicholson 5 11 4 M A Fitzgerald
3 IP ARGUARLY (28) (Mrs Colin Marray)	G Rateino 8 17 9 S For
4 O BROUGHTON BLAZE (24) (Brough	on Thermal Insulation) W Musson 7 11 0
5 055-05 EMBARGO (35) (J L Duniop) J Duni	OD 6 11 9
	erts) M J Roberts 6 11 9
7 FPF KINGS ANGEL (3) (Chance Partner	ship) A Foster 7 11 9
	man Racing Partners) R Ingram 5 to 9
	pate) M Campion 6 11 9B Powell
TO P-32 PROSPERO (60) (Mrs Gaynor Scru	ton) Mrs A Perrett 5 11 9R Dumwoody
	T Hamin) H Howe 7 11 0
	ga) Lid J Gifford 8 11 9
	ods Limited) O Sherwood 6 11 9
14 PF522- OVER THE GLEN (286) (The Chanc	tonbury Ring) J Gifford 6 109P Hide
-15	the Barret 6 106 T & Marphy the Care d
BETTING: 7-4 King On The Run, 11-4 Bracey	Rust, 6-1 Prospero, 19 Moon Devil, Surveyon, 12-1
Over The Glen, Super Selfron, 20-1 Embergo	
1997: Sea Victor 5 11 4 D Gallagner 2-1 fav (J L	Harris) 10 ren
1.30 SUNBURY NOVICE C	HASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3m
1 11212 NORTHERN STARLIGHT (29) (Arth	ur Souch) M Pipe 7 12 0 Lower
2 3-1231 OCCOLD (29) (G A Hunbard) G Hu	object 7 to 10R Thornson

	-15 declared -
	BETTING: 7-4 King On The Ren, 11-4 Bracey Run, 6-1 Prospero, 19 Moon Devil, Surrugun, 12-1 Over The Gieri, Super Saffron, 20-1 Embargo, Endeavour, 33-1 Others
	1997: Sea Victor 5 11 4 D Gallaginer 2-1 tev (J L Herris) 10 ren
	1.30 SUNBURY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m Penalty Value £3,550
	1 m212 NORTHERN STARUGHT (29) (Arthur Souch) & Pice 7 12 0
	2 3-23 OCCOLD (29) (G A Harbard) G Habbard 7 11 10
	3 240/2 EBULLIENT EQUINAME (25) Lyra Wilson) N Handerson 7 11 5
	4 531-4F LOTTERY TICKET (28) (Alan Parket) T George 8 ft 6
	BETTING: 5-4 Northern Stortight, 7-4 Ebuillent Equiname, 7-2 Occold, 16-1 Lottery Ticket
	1997. Fine Thyre 6 11 10 M A Fizzgerald 4-11 lav (Mrs A Perrett) 4 ran
ì	

ļ			
- [	E	1.30	SUNBURY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m Penalty Value £3,550
- 1	1	111212	NORTHERN STAPLIGHT (29) (Arthur Souch) M Pipe 7 12 0
ı	2	3-1231	OCCOLD (29) (G A Hubbard) G Hubbard 7 tt 10
┨	3	200/2	OCCOLD (29) (G A Habbard) G Habbard 7 ti 10
- 1	7	201-11	- A decised -
	B	TING	5-4 Northern Startight, 7-4 Ebuillent Equiname, 7-2 Occold, 16-1 Lottery Ticket
- 1			Thyring 6 11 10 M A Fitzperald 4-11 lay (Mrs A Pemett) 4 ren
	-		infine a in the text inside and the family and a sense
- (	Œ	ว กร	SHEPPERTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) C4
	Ľ		£6,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £4,299
ı	1	12112.	EIG STRAND (296) (D) (C Jones) M Pipe 8 12 D
- 1	١.		Yellow, emergial green again, red steeves and cap
- 1		20.020	FAR DAWN (USA) (69) (Peter Wiegend) Mrs A Perrett 5 11 7
			Pink. dark blue hoors
- 1	3	34500-	TOP SPIN (296) (CD) (Mrs Card Davis) J Jertons 6 11 4
	ш		Red, black spots, red and black halved sleeves
ы	4	1F/12-6	TDIOT'S LADY (1) (Mrs J Olivent) Mrs J Pernen B 11 3doubtful
	ш		Green, pink cross belts
- 1	5	23-16P	MARIUS (29) (Mas Jessica Andrews) J Gifford 8 10 13
	ш		Pink, dark blue sash and armiets, dark blue and pink hooped cop
	6	F-2342	EAU DE COLOGNE (23) (D and M Siens) Mrs L Richards 5 to 12 M Richards
			Dark blue and emerald green check, dark blue sleeves, mirroon cap
- 4	7	1121.22	TOBY SROWN (29) (D) (A Stennett & Mrs J M Stennett) D Nicholson 5 to 11 R Thornton
1.7	ш.		Bego and emerald prean check, being sleeves
	а	1-4304	DEYMLAR (8) (0) (T J Whitey) D Gandolfo 6 to 10 G Boadley
- 4			Many blue, scarlet alleves, quartered cap, white cross beltz
	9	221-81	THREE FARTHINGS (28) (CD) (Extra of the Late K R Britten) J Old 6 10 8 .M A Fitzgerald
		EE POL	Royal bue, chocoloie and red house, while cap
- 1	-	S1.272	WORLD EXPRESS (28) (D) (The Oraginic Partnership) B R Milman 8 105
- 1		VI-EEE	ACTUAL EXCLUSION FOR THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE

12	5-1P15	VITAMAN (1) (0) (Larkhed Not Hith/Contessium Vitermes) Mrs J Pitman 9 10 3 doubtful	
		Royal blue, white cliec, white sleeves, royal blue spots, royal blue cap, white ster	
13	0-11P3	BROWNES HELL LAD (24) (Mrs Barbara Marchant) R O'Sulfivan 6 10 3 A Thornton	-
		Yellow, royal blue hoop, royal blue sleaves, yellow armiets, quartered cap	
14	25-212	HAMDY LASS (21) (B W Hadding) J Smith 8 10 3 Mr O McPhall (7)	
		Yellow, black cross belts, while pap	,
5	343-FP	SEOD RIOGA (25) (D) (S P Tindall) S Malor 9 10 0	
_		. Royal blue, yellow sleeves, white cap	
		- 15 declared -	-
B	ETTING:	11-4 Three Farthings, 5-1 Yoby Brown, 7-1 World Express, 8-1 Daymlar, 9-1 Robingo,	i
10	4. Bla C	toned She De Cologne 12.1 See Chart Handy Lace 16.1 Browner Hill Lat Markin	- 1

TOBY BROWN has run two good recess from out of the handicap — unseating his rider two out when sure to be placed in dysarths race at Cheltenham and then missing out to the vasilty more experienced Haile Derring (pair clear) in here on Bosing Cay, Soth reces were over three miles and although he might be better over this shorter trip, more important is that there won't be any overweight this time and he is likely to have more scope than most. Three Farthings won easily enough from Royal Piper over the course and distance at the Christmas meeting yet was value for a lot bigger writing margin. The egittyset-oid, who doesn't have that much mileage on the clock, is probably ahead of the handicapper's 8th hills and is the one Toby Brown has to best with the stable going so well. Big Strand's whiteward finesh enabled him to pip a log field of smart handicappers at the Cheltenham Festival before making a brave attempt to follow up at Amtree. That's smart form and the fact that he heart been out since shouldn't stop him running well off only a 26 higher mark than Africea. Far Dawn, runnetup at Antree in the spring and a staying-on second to Disallowed in Chepstow's Free Handicap hardle on his reappearance, the this longer trip for the first time.

	2.35	TWICKENHAM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m Penalty Value £4,765
ī		KADASTROF (FR) (14) (CD) (BF) (A P Paton) R Dictor 6 to 11 A Thornton Gray, rad shipped showers and cap
2	Emeral	MCRSTOCK (8) (CD) (Ms M Ferbarn) R Hodges 8 11 7
3	0/4	FLORILESS GUY (66) (M P Sempson) R Rowe 10 11 6 B Fenton Pint and royal blue diamonds, pint cap, royal blue diamond
4		STOMPIN (33) (D) (Marth Broughton) Miss H Kinghi 7 to 5
5	20-584	THE LAND AGENT (14) (D   Bure) J Mulins 7 11 3

BETTINS: 11-10 Kedentrot, 11-4 Monstock, 7-2 Stomptin, 6-1 The Land Agent, 16-1 Florieta Guy 1997: Land Alar 10 to 7 J Osborne 5-4 km (P R Webber) 5 rati FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE.

This novice chase, with only a tew penellies, is a good opportunity for the consistent KADAS-TROF to return to winning form after being unable to concede a stone and a half to light-fly-weighted rivels in a handicap at Sandown a fortraght ago. He still gave a good account of himself and this is the scane of his best win — a two-and-shalf length defeat of the useful Lake Kariba. Strange as it may seem for a horse beaten only a length and a half. Stomptin never got in a serious blow when runner-up to Gale Tor at Ludlow, it was a still a pleasing first effort as chasing debuts go, but he was at his best over hurdles on faster ground.

Selection: KADASTROF

FORM GUIDE

Beaten but certainly not unbowed was the verdict on Naturawall as his run, started on a math more than two stone lower, came to an end when he massed out to Mejor Jamie at Sandown seven weeks ago. Up another 6tb, Naturawall meets third-place ALABANG only a pound worse, while the fifth, New Inni, is actually a pound worse off. With Richard Dunwoody taking the ride Naturawall can be fancied on those terms, but Alabang, a horse with far less experience, was going so easily all the way up the straight only to be found out on the final climb. This easier course should suit Alabang more. How good that form was is shown by New Inn wiming twice since, but he was no match for the tearway Nipper Reed at Ascot less week. Nipper Reed is weighted to confirm that numing, though whether he will be able to dominate as much with 19th more on his back is another matter Saranus comes well into it following two good wins the season, and just as bid a er Serentus comes well into it following two good wins the season, and just as big a Janger is Easy Listening.

	3,40	FULWELL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) C4 £11,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £7,503
1		STATELY HOME (9) (0) (P Bowen) P Bowen 7 12 0
2		EASY BUCK (710) (D) (J P M & J W Cook) C Morlock 11 11 11 PHOREY
3		AARDWOLF (48) (Lady Camilla Dempster) C Brooks 7 to 6
4		PRATE BOX (se) (D) (Exors of the Late Mr. John Corbell) P Chamings 8 tt 0 A Thornton Corpor molel bone, and dep
5		MONKS SOHAM (23) (0) (G A Hubbard) G Hubbard 10 10 10
6	1-1U4F	FRAZER ISLAND (28) (0) (Dr.B. Alexander) R.Rove S. 10 10B Feature Brown, fortible cross belts, subed steeres, Both blue cap
		EASTHORPE (43) (Marin Broughton) Mess H Knight 10 10 0
8	()40054	GREENBACK (BEL) (14) (CD) (Jack Joseph) P Hodos 7 til 10
9	264P-0	MONTECOT (FR) (29) (Sr Michael Cornel) S Metor 9 10 5
10	631/13	EVEN FLOW (24) (CD) (BF) (A T A Weles) 1 Casey 8 10 0 T J Murphy New John, general seat, police cap
be	ck, Mon	6-1 Even Flow, 5-1 Prate Box, 11-2 Stately Home, 7-1 Easthorpe, Frazer Island, Green- is Solven, 16-1 Aerdwolf, 14-1 Montecot, 16-1 Easy Bock lough 6 TO 1 A Magure 11-2 (O Candollo) 8 an FORM GUIDE
24	otobe H	come observed this uniforceholity on exister rate and when country by Manaka So-

hard (v4b better in) at Stratford in May. The seven-year-old is also one of several from-runners in this race who could end up cutting there own threats and the race should be run to suit PRATE BCX. The ex-fish gelding had a promising start in this country when running Frazer Island (7b better in) close at Chepstow in October and has made the prester progress since. He dotted up there next time and was going seatly when he tailed to negotiate the water in an eventful race on a third visit. Even Flow looked useful when whiting his only start over fences here in the 1955-86 season and he carried on where he left off when next seen out at Warwick more than two years later. He didn't come up with the expected goods on his latest run there though.

Selection: PRATE BCX

4	.10	WEATHERBYS 'STARS OF TOMORROW' ( RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m Penal	OPEN NH FLAT ty Value £1.508
_		MATCHLESS (28) (D) (J Rose) Lord Hursingdon 5 11 T	
		MULTICALESS (KB) (U) (LINDAS) LIND FOR SIGNATION A	Mr. D. Wielder, 70
		ALHALAL (G.A. Swinberk) H Haynes 5 11 4	
•	P6	ALL FOR THE CRACK (47) (Dave Doon) P Charmings 5 11 4	
		ARCTIC LODGE (Graham Thomer) G Thomer 8 11 4	
i		ALIDACTER (Mrs Came Zetter-Wels) L Wels 5 11 4	L Aspell (3)
1		BOROTOWN LORD (Mile Roberts) M J Roberts 5 tl 4	
•	2	DUMBURY FLYER (54) (Graham Datoel) J Old 6 fl 4	
		DURNIFORD BAY (R W Gles) Miss H Knight 5 11 4	
,		GREY TROOPER (Mrs D Classen-Bretton) G Balding 5 11 4	
0		GUARD OF HONDUR (S N J Embricos) J Gifford 8 11 4	P Hide
ī	20-2	IN THE VAN (29) (Mrs Soins Thomson Jones) Mrs O Haine 6 11 4	
2		JOVIAN POND (198) (Mas Sally R Haynes) H Haynes 6 11 4	
ō		MR MUSIC MAN (N A GIR) J King 5 11 4	
4		OSCAR WRIDE (Paul Green) R Ainer 8 11 4	A Thornton
5		PAMPERED PILOT (35) (D A Mayes) Miss L Bower 5 tt 4	
В		ROCKET RON (35) (Ron Colins) N Berry 8 11 4	
7	43-0	AUSTIC REVELAY (R H York 5 TI 4	ALD WAL
6		SWIFT VENTURE (The On The Run Partnership) G Balding 6 11 4	River Theiring
		THE BARRUNGTON FOX (The Fox Inn Partnership) R Smith 5 11 4	
0		TOTAL COLLY CONTROL COLLAR TO A STATE OF A	
		TOM LOMAX (Rerence Brady) R Budder B 11 4	
7		MY GLENDALOUGH (Mrs Mary Doyle) G L Moore 5 10 10	
2		RO-JO (Mrs A G Sirrs) A Chamberlain 4 107	
		_22 declared _	

-22 declared BETTING: 9-4 Dumbury Flyer, 7-2 Matchises, 13-2 in The Ven, 6-1 Guard of Honour, 16-1 Durnford Bay, 16-1 Dece Wilde, 20-1 All For The Crack, Arctic Lodge, Mr Marsic Man, Rocket Ron, Swithshitzer, Mr Charles 1997 Clinking 6 tt 5 Mrs A Perrett 8-1 (Mrs A Perrett) 8 nar

8.00 PINE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 46yds

BETTING: 9-4 Whithey Grange Boy, 3-1 Noutierl, 4-1 Minter Aspectio, 13-2 Fether Stoy, 7-1 Mondragon, 9-1 Premier Dance, 12-1 Mr Speculator, 26-1 Castle Secret

8.30 S.J. DIXON HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 1m 100yds

Z3+Ti FATIK (7) A NewComb 4 8 7
 C5-Ti SUALITACH (10) (C) (D) R Hollinshead 5 9 7
 S UALITACH (10) (C) (D) R Hollinshead 5 9 7
 S Whitworth 8
 C440-1 UBERIERN (22) (C) (D) P Howing 6 8 8
 S Whitworth 8
 S WARD (23) (C) (D) Mas M Reveloy 7 8 13 A Catherne 2
 6 000-5 SUEZ TORINADO (10) (D) E Aston 5 8 2
 C Lowther (3) 7
 B declared
 BETTING: S-1 Plan For Profit, 7-2 Sualitach, 4-1 Paylls, 5-1 Ulbertein, 6-1
 Trojen Hern, 16-1 Pericles, 12-1 Suaz Torreado, 16-1 Bruzel Restacy

# PUNTERS' GUIDE

HAYDOCK 1.15: COLLIER BAY, two lengths third to Reliced in the Grade Iwo Bula Hurdle over 2m 1f at Cheltenham in Luca, ber, can turn the tables on 11th better terms.

chance on his previous four-length second to See More Business over 

2.15: PADDY'S RETURN, 19-length winner of the Grade One Long Walk Hurdle over 3m 1f 110yds at Ascot, will be hard to beat.

KEMPTON 2.05: Big Strand has the ability to defy top weight but it's likely his main targets are at Chehenham and Aintree. Far Dawn is best on fast ground whereas WORLD EXPRESS loves the mud. Rod Millman's eight-year-old has been given a chance by the transformer. given a chance by the handicapper. **DOO** 

2.35: Morstock could easily follow up last week's Kempton win. tompin represents a stable rapidly returning to form. KADAS-TROF's winning run came to an end at Ascot two weeks ago but the uphill finish there by no means suited this gallant front-runner.

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

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to feet at more

STORY 3 PAGE 14

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CARLES MARKET

Section of the

1.45: INDIAN TRACKER, who 3.16: A very open event in which failed to stay 3m 5f 110yds in the front-running Nipper Reid will be blazing a trail. Alabang, best when held up off a strong pace, will certainly have the race run to suit 3m at Chepstow in December.

him. A strong late challenge seems guaranteed. Small each-way stakes are advised for EASY LISTENING, available at 25-1 with Coral. Nigel Hawke believes his nicely handicapped six-year-old is capable of lifting a prize of this nature.

3.40: Aardwolf goes well when fresh and has run well on this track in the past. Charlie Brooks' yard has been out of sorts lately, however. Stately Home is clearly going the right way, but will find it hard to concede 18ib to GREENBACK. Peter Hobbs' prolific winner has been dropped to a winning mark.

LEOPARDSTOWN (SUNDAY) 2.45: COCKNEY LAD, beaten two lengths by Istabraq in the Grade One Hatton's Grace Hurdle over 2m 4f at Fairyhouse in November, can reverse the positions over this

LANZAROTE	1988	-		91	92	93	94	95	96	97
Fate of the favourities:	8		6	2	2	P	2/3	1	В_	_1_
Winner's place in bettin	a: C	1	0	2	3	9	3	_1_		_1_
Starting-prices:	15-2	94	10-1	8-2	11-2	12-1	5-1	4-5	20-1	21
Wirening weighte:	714	107	10.3	10.3	1013	100	106	TLIO	112	103
Milmoria mar	12	6	5	7	В	В	В	7	В	-6
Dendt or loss to \$1 stak	n: Fav	ourite	1 -E 1	95 Se	cond	Fevo	rites.	£4.5	<u></u>	
Percentage of winners	placed	1et,	<u> 2nd o</u>	r 3rd	ln lac	t rece	80%			٠.
Shortest-priced winner	Trying	Agai	n (199	5) 4-5		<u> </u>				
Longest-priced winner-	Warm	Spel	(1996)	20-1					<u> </u>	
Top trainer: J Jenkins -	- C	oh de	(1989)	. Attes	t (1990	,			- Ni	

#### FIRST SHOW

Hayd	lock -	- 14	45		Kemp	ton ·	-2	05	
	C	н	 		Horse	C	H	L	_
Horse		_н		<del>-</del>	Three Farthings	5-2	3-1	3-1	Ĺ
locian Tracker	4-1	9-2	4-1	41	Toby Brown	9-2	11-2	5-1	_
Nebthan Lad	41	8-2	5-1	9-2	World Express	8-1	13-2	8-1	_
Simply Deathing	11-2	9-2	5-1	5-1	Hobingo	6-1	6-1	6-1	_
					Big Strand .	16-1	16-1	16-1	_1
Eudipe	5-1	_5-1	11-2	6-1	Deymler	6-1	<u>B-1</u>	8-1	_1
General Wolfe	11-2	7-1	8-1	8-1	Eau De Cologne	12-1	10-1	9-1	_1
Strath Royal	6-1	0-1	6-1	8-1	For Down	10-1	10-1	14-1	1
	-			***	Handy Lass	16-1	11-1	10-1	
Earth Sutmit	9-1	7-1	8-1	13-2	Brownes Hill Lad	14-1	16-1	20-1	1
Barnjo	16-1	10-1	10-1	16-1	Marios	20-1	16-1	20-1	1
Harwell Lad	20-1	16-1	18-1	16-1	Top Spiri	33-1	33-1	25-1	3
Go Bullistic	Dbt	Dbt	Obt	Obt	Seod Rioga	40-1	40-1	33-1	7
					idiat's Lady	DPK	Dbt	DPF	
Each-way & PM	the od	lds, pla	088 7, 2	2 9	Vitatren	DIX	Dbt	Obt	
C - Cossi, H - Wille	mHK L	-Lagb	rokas, 1	- Tom	Each way a quarte	r the	odds, p	kaces 1	, 2

C-Comt H-With	mHK.L	-Lagb	Each way a qua	der the c	odds, į		
Kem	pton -	3.	Kem	pton ·	3		
Horse .	C	_ H	L	Ţ	Horse	C	H
Alabeng	B-1	41	7.2	11-4	Even Flow	10-3	4-1
Servous	7-2	4-1	_3-1	3-1	Printe Box	11-2	B-2
Natura well	41	41	41	9-2	Stenety Homa	41-5	11-2
Allpper Reed	5-1	4-1	9-2	0-1	Frazer Island	#-1	8-1
New Inn	10-1	8-1	10-1	12-1	Greenback	13-2	7-1
Shehrur	8-1	8-1	10-1	12-1	Monks Sohen	7-1	8-1
Doctoor	16-1	14-1	16-1	16-1	Easthorpe	7-1	13-2
Dr Bones	16-1	18-1	14-1	20-1	Aerdwolf	9-1	12-1
Carito Brigante	25-1	16-1	20-1	25-1	Easy Buck	20-1	16-1
Easy Listening	25-1	20-1	20-1	16-1	Montecot	16-1	16-1

Kem	pton ·	3.4	40	
Horse	C	H	<u>_</u>	T
Even Flow	10-3	4-1	9-2	10-3
Presta Blox	11-2	B-2	8-2	11-2
Stately Home	ti-5	11-2	6-1	11-2
Frazer Island	#-1	8-1	7-1	8-1
Greenback	13-2	7-1	8-1	7-1
Monks Sohen	7-1	8-1	0-1	7-1
Easthorpe	7-1	13-2	9-1	0-1
Amdwolf	9-1	12-1	10-1	12-1
Easy Buck	20-1	16-1	16-1	25-1
Montecot	16-1	16-1	8-1.	20-1

# I FOPAR DSTOWN - SINDAY

1	CCC	PARDSTOWN - SUNDAT
4	2.45	A.I.G. EUROPE CHAMPION HURDLE (Grade 1) £50,000 added 2m Penalty Value £34,500 BBC2
		COCKNEY LAD (28) (CD) (SF) N Meede 8 11 10 P Carberry Sky blue, yellow hoop, green cap
	71-111	ISTABRAO (27) (CD) A P O'Brien 6 nt 10 C Swent Emenald green & orange hooped, white cap
1	11-400	NOBLE THYNE (176) (C) (D) P Bullins 6 11 10
,	015032	PUNTING PETE (26) (CD) W P Malins 6 11 10
•	54-230	THEATREWORLD (16) (CD) AP CERION 6 11 10 N WIRESPISCO
1		HIS SONG (29) (CD) M Morris 6 11 6
•	664-32	NOTCOMPLAININGBUT (15) (CD) P Name 7 11 5 Treecy Block 6 red stipes, white cap

- 7 declared -BETTING: 46 intetrac, 13-2 Cockney Lad, 7-1 His Song, 16-1 Thestreworld, 14-1 Notcomplaints

### RESULTS

Each-way a 6th the odds, places 1, 2, 3

ASCOT
1.00: 1. MUSICHIL, (F. Johnson) 4-5 fay;
2. Anklay Royal 5-2; 3. Take Cover 10-1. 6
ran. 5, 26, 10 Netholson, Temple Quiting, Toke;
1.50: 1. SUPER COIN (N Willemson) 3-1
co fay; 2. Sounds Like Fun 3-1 co fay; 3.
Robins Pride 13-2. 8 ran. 3-1 co fay
Ground Nut (Mh) 5-2 (R ILee Presidence) Ground Nut (4th.) 5.2%. (R Lee, Presimigne). Total 6370; 5130; 5140; 5170 DF: 5480; CSF: 5140, 51635; GR. (2005). 2.05: 1. MACINORRIS (R Johnson) 7-2.

16-1 Punting Pate, 25-1 Noble Thyne

2.0s: 1. MACANORRIS (R Johnson) 7-2 co Say, 2. My Shenamdoeh 7-2 co Say, 2. My Shenamdoeh 7-2 co Say, 3. On Donna 7-2 co Say, 6. Say,

KELSO

KELSO

1.15: 1. COPPERHURST (R McGrath)
12-1; 2. Pearl's Choice 13-6 fav; 3. Kraffingen 7-1 10 ran. 17; 20; (W Kemp, Dune). Total
2930; 5170; 5120; 5230; DF; 51320; CSF;
53029; Tito: 5120; 7280; NR; Rysenellyn.
1.45: 1. DEEP WATER (N Homode); 5-2;
2. J. J. Baboo 2-1; 3. Bourbon Dynasty 5-8;
18v. 12 ran. 5, 8 (M Hammond, Middham).
Total 54:70; 5230; 510; 5170; DF; 5240; CSF;
5727; Tito: 5330.
2.15: 1. MARELLO (P Niven) 1-7 fav; 2. Political Tower 10-1; 3. Common Sound

2.15: 1. MARIELLO (P Niven) 1-7 fav; 2. Political Tower 10-1; 3. Common Sound 16-1.4 ran. 5, 7. (Mrs M Reveley, Settburn). Tota: 2:10. OE: 22:30. CSF: 22:53.
2.55: 1. SLIDEOF-RILL (C O'DOWNE) 3-1; 2. D'Arbiny Streat 20-1; 3. Cats Rum 6-1. B ran. 7-4 fav Ungutided Missile (Mi). 6, 23. (J J O'Nell, Permith). Tota: 2:270; E170, 24.20, C190. DF: 2:280. CSF: 2:4805. Tricast: 5307:2. Tric: 2:2700.
3.30: 1. SUPPER SANDY (D Parker) 44-1; 2. Briar's Delight 18-1; 3. Singing Send 9-2. 6 ran. 7-4 fav Prince O' Saints (pulled up). 10. Int. (F Watton, Morpoth). Tota: 2:250; 2:280, ESO. DF: 2:290. CSF: 2:4584. NP: Patter Merchant.

Patter Marchant.
4.05: 1. MONTE CRESTA (Mr M Brad-burne) 8-1: 2. Bumbhell Mor 4-1; 3. To-Day To-Day 7-2 fav. 15 raw. 12. 3/L (Mr S Brad-burne, Cupar). Tota: \$10.40; \$400, \$200, \$130.

DF: £2150. CSF: £2900. Trio: £1450. NR: Gus

SOUTHWELL
1.10: 1. FAST FRANC (Darren Williams)
100-30: 2. Ok Babe 5-1; 3. I'm Tef 3-1 fev.
14 ran. Hd, sh-hd, (S Williams). Tota: 25:50:
230. 1:90. 2:30. DP: 2:870. CSF: 22040.
Titless: 255:8. Tho: £1090.
1.40: 1. URSA MAJOR (R Stuchchms) 4-1;
2. Rembo Webters 5-2 fev. 3. Jonaph's Wilne
10-1 14 ran. 5, 8. (A Kellewsy). Tota: £780;
220, £210, £150. DF: £450. CSF: £1380. Tho:
£255:0.

2210, 2210, 2150, DF: EVAID, CSF: £1380, Tho: 2550, 2.10: 1. BE WARNED (M Vilgham) 9-2: 2. Diesel Den 70-1; 3. Sue Me 9-2: 8 ran. 9-4 fav Three Arch Bridge, 4, 2/4. (J. Paerce). Tota: £540; £130, £390, £440, DF: £1810, CSF: £1810, EVAID, £140, £140, DF: £1610, CSF: £1810, EVAID, £140, £140, DF: £1610, CSF: £1810, EVAID, £140, £140, DF: £1610, CSF: £1810, EVAID, £140, EVAID, £140, EVAID, £140, EVAID, £140, EVAID, £140, EVAID, £140, EVAID, £150, £250, £150, £150, £257, ₹1810, £150, £250, £150, £

4.20: 1. DOUBLE ECHO (Martin Duyer) 8-1: 2. Moonraiding ft-4 fee; 3. All On 12-1 11 ran. 6, 2/4 (J) Bethell CSF: \$2189, 76-cast: \$283.75. Tric: \$2700. Pincapot: \$500, Generoot: \$2.80. Pinca 6: £3.74. Pinca 5: £8.58.



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### LINGFIELD (AW)

Red, black store, red stores 11 30/461 ROBUNGO (8) (0) (1) Nevillet J Neville 6 10 4

1.25 Tangerine Flyer 1.55 Sihafi 2.25 Awesome Power 2.55 King's Colours 3.30 Boulevard Rouge 4.00 Harlequin Walk GOING: Standard.

GOING: Standard.

STALLS: 51 & fm - outside; rest - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best 51 & 61.

© Equitack surface; intri-hand, sharp undulating course.

© Course a SE of from on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course, ADMISSION: Members/Family Enclosure 50 (accompanied under-18e free). CAR PARK: Cub 52: resmaltider free.

23; remainder free.

© LEADING TRAINERS: M Johnston 50-272 (984), R Hamson 45-325 (984), Lord Hundingdon 35-99 (1874), Gay Katlenay 35-206 (17%).

© LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 65-924 (2874), S Sanders 56-534 (105%), S Wintworth 41-309 (193%), D Biggs 32-374 (86%).

© FAVOURITIES: 673-2040 (33%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: (vor's Deed (155), King's Colours (255), Miss Roberto (visored) (400).

1.25 CRUSADER CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 3YO 5f 

BETTING: 1-4 Tengerine Flyer, 3-1 Dande Youes, 33-1 Fairy Domino

1.55 COMET HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added 6f

0886 GOODSYE GATEMEN (11) B Peace 4 8 To \_\_C Lousiner (3 08806 GI LA HIGH (10) (C) M Massle 5 68 \_\_\_Dean MicKenwa 7 60040 - CORRANE (51) C Dwyer 4 6 4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A Cleri

9 declared -Minutum weight: 7st 10th. True harditisp weight: Our Shadee 7st 7th. BETTIMG: 7-2 Sihati, 4-1 Helf Tone, 9-2 Time To Fly, 6-1 tvor's Dead, 6-1 Doodbye Geltsmen, 10-1 Gi Le High, Oxbane, 12-1 others

2.25 CHURCHILL CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £3,750 added 1m 2f

### 2.55 CHIEFTAIN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £3,750 added 3YO 1m

3.30 CHALLENGER HANDICAP (CLASS D) 55,000 added 3YO 1m

....X Aizpuru (3) \

- 6 declared -SETTING: 13-6 Diamond Drill, 9-4 Blue Shadow, 7-2 Impulsive Deci 7-1 Comeostativetog, 8-1 Boufevard Rouge, 16-1 Ball Dence

4.00 CENTURION HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added fillies & mares 1m 4f

= 9 deciared = BETTING: 3-1 Harlequin Walk, 9-2 Rahamb, 5-1 Silankiza, 0-1 Miss Rober

to, 13-2 Royal Callidh, 7-1 Cabcharge Glory, 19-1 Strong Choice, 12-1 Society Girl, Silau Wheilian Champion jockey Kieren Fallon returns to actioo in Britain today. Though only just back from Hong Kong, Fallon has a double shift. He has two rides at Lingfield this afternoon and three et Wolverhampton's evening feature. Fallon renews regular partnerships with trainers Gay Kellewsy (who has booked him for Ivor's Deed at Lingfield and Pericles at Wolverhampton) and Eric Alston | Bowcliffe at Wolverhampton). And he also rides Martyn Meade's Impulsive Decision at Lingfield and Oliver Sherwood's Father Sky at Wolverhampton. Arkie Trophy favourite Dardjini has suffered a set-back and will miss his intended outing at Leopardstown

tomorrow. Noel Meade is unsure whether the gelding

will recover in time to take his chance in the 2m Artie

at Cheltenham, for which he is 7-2 with William Hill.

### WOLVERHAMPTON (AW)

**HYPERION** 7.00 Prince Ashleigh 7.30 Chemcast 8.00 Noufari 8.30 Jibereen 9.00 State Approval 9.30 Mazeed 5 0303-1 NOUFARI (FR) (19) (C) (D) R Hollanhead 7 8 12.....F Lymbh 8 6 445-2 MONDRAGON (15) (D) Mrs M Reveloy 8 8 7......A Cultume 4 7 00300- Mrs SPECULATOR (Jee) (C) J Spening 5 7 11 B Righton (7) 1 B 8 2550- CASTLE SECRET (JR7) (CD) D Burchel 12 7 10.A MacCarthy (7) 7

GOING: Standard.
STALLS: Inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 8f to 1m 4t.

Fibresand, left-hand, oval course.

Course is N of town on A449, Wolverhampton station 1m. AD-MISSION: Club 2:15; Tatiensells 25 (OAP members of beanond Cub 2:9; Viewing Restaurent 22:590 including entrance and meal CAR PARK: thee.

LEADING TRAINERS: R Hollinsheed 61-561 (103%), M Johnsons 3:544 (217%), J Berry 43-300 (143%), P Hestern 3:5-17 (178%)

LEADING TRAINERS: R Hollinshead 61-533 (103%), M Johnston 55-244 (217%), J Berry 43-300 (143%), P Hastern 35-197 (127%).
 LEADING JOCKEYS: F Lynch 28-25; (104%), A Clark 34-24; (104%), Dean McKerwin 24-234 (103%), O Holland 20-128 (156%).
 FAVOURTIES: 374-1773 (193%).
 BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ishrasel (7:30), Redspet (7:30), Spicetrees (9:30), Mysterium (visored) (9:30).

7.00 M.C.S.D. RACING MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 53,800 added 3YO 1m 1f79yds BRIAN'S BLUE P Exces 9 0.

7.30 SYCAMORE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £2,500 added 5f

POS-62 MULLAGH HILL LAD (6) (CD) N Litimopien 59 1) . . .. 

- 19 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Chemicast, 7-2 Multingh Hill Led, 4-1 Allez, 11-2 Village Mative, 7-f Feotherstone Cane, 10-1 Marke Ready, 20-1 Martino Street, 25-1 Boffy, 33-1 others

9.00 LIME SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) 22,500 added 1m 4f

BETTING: 1-2 State Approval, 5-1 Head Gardener, 0-1 Portite Sophie, 6-1 Wedede, 10-1 Feiled To HE 9.30 NICK LIT IMODES OF STREET NICK LITTMODEN OWNERS HANDICAP

Manimum weight: 7st 10th, True handicup weights: Spicetress 7st 6th, Cher Re Chang 73; 50. RETTING: 11-4 Mezeed, 7-2 Yeomen Oliver, 4-1 Coline Choice, 9-2 Bou-cilife, 5-1 Xenophon Of Cunges, 10-1 Mysterform, 12-1 Sooty Turn, 25-1

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ERICK HYPE RICH Forestel &

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SECON CONDICATION OF SECOND SE 

# TERS GUIDE

place to drag a tired old institution into the

visionary with his hands

firmly on the controls.

modern world. Richard Edmondson meets Peter Jones, the

peer into the future.

laying thick bets.

has changed.

tional from the year 2000 on-

Tote's calls ever heard someone

flicking through a roll of notes

at the other end of the line, they

would immediately rip the

switchboard out of the wall

and hide under the table. But

the Tote has changed. And en-

tirely because the man at the top

tocrat's autocrat, though he

did not disagree with his critics

(he never listened to what they

were saying in the first place).

Like another top figure in rac-

ing, be never tired of telling peo-

ple what a thorough genius he

was. You can dispute Lord

Wakeham's assertion that he is

"a high-quality person", but

yon could never disagree that,

Woodrow Wyatt was the au-

SATRASYO" - SUCRUM TAD CHAM STOR

Remotes - 245

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Marie 1978 - 15.55 - 1 10 mm 2 mm 12 mm 1 2 mg - 1 1 1 2 2 2 

Section Sectio . . . . The second secon The second secon

SOUTHWELL

Windows of opportunity for the new marketeer There are rumblings in the Tote as new machinery is put in



Peter Jones: "I'm really an East European count with a double-barrelled surname, but it's all part of my masterplan"

name, but it's all part of my mas- shops; and, perhaps most fa-

"I don't seek or crave pubany day."

The new chairman, let's call him Peter, is enjoying himself. "It's been every hit as good as I anticipated it would be," he says. "There's a massive challenge out there for the Tote. We've got an infintessimal share of the market. We've got a set of people working for the Tote who've become frustrated down the years that they can't fully express themselves.

his was an extremely high-quality resignation from the BHB. This staff can be broken Peter Jones, at 55, is differdown into four compartments. ent. He's a shrewdie but he lets There is Tote Credit (the boys you find that out for yourself. who now let you bet in more He doesn't even have a flashy handle. "I've got a fairly anonyally an East European count from Ladbrokes; Tote Direct, room door each day probably come. with a double-barrelled sur- the pool betting facility in rivals' the first thing he says is "GM".

self. All their ills will be licity. I'd swap a dozen inter- scrutinised, though a common views for a good profit stream remedy has already heen prepared.

"The Tote has never re-

garded marketing as being one of it's main functions and the marketing department has been underfunded and undermanned," Jones says, "Most of what it's got to do in the future has got to be marketing-led." This is not staggering news. Peter Jones reached high station in the marketing and advertising industry. If you're agin him you might call the man a number cruncher. Pros will tell you he does his homework properly. Like lots of husiness folk.

knows his racing and likes to think he is a hit of a specialist at staying chasers, even though the best borse he has owned was the Catterick sprint specialist God's Solution. He was even a member of the BHB, though

that should not necessarily be held against him. Jones has been in the game long enough to form a view on what's wrong, "The sport has been very patchily marketed." he says. "Some racecourses like Cheltenham and Goodwood - market themselves very well. But there are plenty who don't do a particularly good job. Marketing has never been very high up racecourses' list of pri-

"It's a lack of understand- croaches further into the mind office at the Tote.

Jones is not just a Board- ing of the process. Most race- as the only method to win hig mously, the racecourse pool it- room Johnny, however. He course managements, in modern-day British terms, would be described as moribund.

> They just haven't had the level of husiness experience which shows the cause and effect of good marketing techniques. It's a lack of education in the way of business." New marketing at the race-

course will include beginner windows, where first-timers will not have a queue of foot-stamping, impatient rhinos behind them. There will be high-roller windows too, as well as much literature advertising Jones' pet subject, the exotic bets.

Foremost among these is the new Superbet, which is now unlikely to be with us until

guess the first six home in a televised race each Saturday. "We want this pool to go up to £1m a week," Jones says. "And you won't get that habit established unless you get the right bet that people can get excited about. We've got to play up the big

money. It now appears the

favoured Superbet will be to

wins when they come along. We've got Frankie Dettori, who we'll use to promote our products and when people win hig prizes, we'll be bringing Frankie out to present them. Whenever we've let Frankie loose to do work on the racecourse he's always been mobbed. He's a fantastic personality."

Peter Jones himself does than coppers); Note bookmak- Jones talks in a morse code of orities. Many racecourses don't March of 1999. Jones insists not want to be a personality, ers, the shops recently swollen initials and acronyms. When he even look at marketing as an exthey must get the bet right, but There are plenty though who mous name," he says. "I'm re- by the acquisition of premises first meets his family at the bath- penditure that can produce in- that date seems an awfully long believe he has embarked on way away as the Lottery en- what will be a fantastic term of

Sleeper: A winning bet which suggest a better home for the

Smoke: Not everyone in Britain who spends time in a betting shop is a 60-a-day smoker - it just feels that way. And feel is often the operative word, as punters try to find their way towards the hetting window through a thick fug which defies even 20-20 vision. Anyone would think that extractor fans were a cutting-edge technology beyond the reach of bettingshop owners, but those who would prefer to place a bet without inviting a hike in their lifeassurance premiums may have to rely on the EC for salvation. Brussels is pondering a direcrive on working conditions which could open the way for cashiers to sue employers who do not provide a smoke-free environment. Then again, since the cashiers are often the most devoted puffers, do not hold whatever breath you have left.

Menture: 10st, True herofcop weight Macchon 9st 6th, Mr Brunn 9st 9th, BETTWG: 9-2 Dragons Bay, 5-1 Desert Brave, 11-2 Corbins, 13-2 Glob at Legend, 7-1 Mineter Glory, Be Brave, 8-1 Stage Fright, 12-1 others

4.15 CATTERICK MAIDEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m

## Collier Bay a soft option at the weights

There is a good chance we will ago, and Mighty Moss, will see the future Champion Hurdle winner this weekend. Collier Bay and Relkeel continue their fitness programming for the Festival at Haydock, while Istabraq attempts a ninth successive victory in tomorrow's AIG Europe Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown.

Istabraq may be favourite for hurdling's Blue Riband but the portents are not with him. No winner of the Royal SunAlliance Hurdle has gone on to success in the seniors' champi-

Yet if popular support counts for anything the sixyear-old is already on the throne with his crown at a jaunty angle. Istahraq was popular enough last March, when he landed odds of 6-5 at the Festival to reward his tired and emononal supporters. There will be tears again tomorrow afternoon if, as the form book insists he must, he wins again.

The Flat-bred horse was originally bought for JP Mc-Manus by John Durkan, who was to have trained the purchase. The fates, however, had something else in mind for Durkan. His death this week from leukaemia makes tomorrow's a particularly poignant event, Cockney Lad and Theatreworld are good horses in their own right, but Istabraq

should carry on the flame. Haydock's Champion Hurdle Trial is virtually indistinguishable from Parkinson, as some old, forgotten figures are invited back on centre stage. Dato Star has been off for over a year, while Indefence, the 1996 Supreme Novices' Hurdle winner, is closing in on a twovear absence.

The finish, though, should concern two horses who fought out the Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham last month. Relkeel won that day, but the revised weights suggest it is the turn of Collier Bay (1.15) now, espe-

The Long Distance Hurdle Festival semi-final. Everyone seems to think Paddy's Return (2.15) is home, hosed and changed for the Stayers' following his win in Ascot's Long Walk Hurdle, but Ocean Hawk, and Monks Soham (3.40). who won this race 12 months

around.

Martin Pipe has representatives in both the day's big races and his runner in the Peter Marsh Chase at Newton-le-Willows is Eudipe. Spectators should not be surprised if a Pipe horse emerges with spectacular new gear in the near future. The research and development unit at Pond House were doubtless fascinated by the Speed Mask unveiled at the World Swimming Championships this week as they too have innovations in mind.

"Martin is always looking at ways to improve, any way to get another winner," Chester Barnes, the trainer's assistant, said. "At the moment he's looking at new designs to streamline a jockey's helmet and a way of making saddles so the wind doesn't get under them."

The wind will be getting up Pipe's opponents at Haydock today, when Simply Dashing is among the rivals. Tim Easterby's golding is good, but he is unproven at this trip and also in

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Eudipe (Haydock 1.45) NB: Nahrawai (Kempton 3.10)

the ground. Two out of three is too bad in this company.

Earth Summit marks quite easily, as does his jockey, Tom Jenks, judging by his wounding of another horse at Huntingdon on Wednesday. The partnership has place prospects. The winner though should be EUDIPE (nap 1.45), who was third in the Hennessy Gold Cup last November as a five-year-old. He must be improving.

At Kempton, Pipe saddles Doctoor in the feature race, the Lanzarote Handicap Hurdle. The ones to consider here however are Nahrawali (next best 3.10)and Alahang, who has his cially as he has the soft ground first run for Julie Camacho, so imperative for him. The since she took over the licence 1996 Champion has been work- from her retired father, Mauing well and his stable is in good rice. They were second and third respectively in the Sandown handicap hurdle won also has the appearance of a by Major Jamie and the three directly behind have all won

> Two others with more lenient challenges than they have faced recently are Kadastrof (2.35)

since.

Earth Summit ready

to hit peak form

The former National Hunt jockey

Steve Smith Eccles (right) gives a

- Richard Edmondson

GREG WOOD THE A-Z OF BETTING

S is for . . .

Skulduggery: A splendid word which conjures up visions of the sort of Cockney ne'er-do-wells that Basil Rathbone used to tap for information in old Sherlock Holmes films, and encom- who remain leading share- the administrators.

which give racing its unique allure. Doping, ringers, hribery. ers work out beforehand who is going to win and adjust their bets accordingly) - all are part of the rich tapestry of the turf. or at any rate, that hit of it that finds its way into Dick Francis novels. In fact, given the huge amount of cash which swills through the game, not to mention the inequality of its distribution. British racing is surprisingly straight. And while it would be naive to imagine that any more than a handful of the runners in a Fakenham novice hurdle are all that "busy", these days the jockeys forts will be scrutinised by the nation's punters on ...

whole exercise as beneath its dignity and allowed them to get jockeys' races (where the rid- on with it, which was a sin of omission to rank alongside its similar aloofuess when offcourse betting was legalised in the 1960s. Having saturated the domestic market within a couple of years of its launch, SIS turned its attention to foreign markets, where a belief in the honesty of British racing is a major selling point with the punters, and it is now possible Abbot in 41 different counties. from Antigua and Austria to India, Russia and Sri Lanka. Some of the profits find their way back to racing thanks to do at least know that their ef- the hroadcasting rights negotiated with racecourses and the dividends on the Racecourse Association's 10 per cent SIS: Which flickered into life shareholding, but rather less 11 years ago, thanks to the efforts of the major bookmakers. with a little more vision from

passes any of the (often imag- holders. The Jockey Club, to its Systems: It is the very plausiinary) crimes, coups and plots shame, seemed to regard the bility of the idea of a winning system which makes it so attractive to punters - and, more worryingly, to bookmakers too. Everyone knows that horses are at least vaguely predictable. while a year's racing programme runs to several thousand races, and it is hard not to ter five years. A couple of years believe that somewhere in that great mass of statistical data, there is not a set of rules for finding bets which will lead to an inevitable profit. The problem with this logic is that the to watch the 1.30 from Newton most important variable is the starting price of the selections, something which it is almost impossible to predict with accuracy. Yet while a foolproof system is the stuff of dreams and dodgy small ads. a systematic approach to betting is part of the discipline which all the best punters possess. For instance, a refusal ever to back a horse at less than 5-2 is the sort of rule which can make the difference between profit and loss.

has gone unclaimed, for reasons cash than one of their highof amnesia, death, or sheer unforgivable laziness. Most bookies will pay on any valid slip no matter how long after the event it is presented, although sleeping Tote bets are added to the annual payment to racing afago, for instance, a man walked into a branch of William Hill with a sheaf of 1,700 winning slips dating back the best part of a decade and worth £11,300. Stranger still, he frequented the shop on a daily basis, but claimed that be was always so busy working out his next set of selections that he had no time to get any cash back from the last. In practice, of course, very few bets which go to sleep for a year or two will ever wake up again. The bookmakers are a little coy about just how much the unclaimed winnings amount to, no doubt because of worries that since it is not strictly speaking theirs, someone might

### runner-by runner analysis of today's Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock. hotds a leading chance.

Earth Summit: Won the here. The only question mark is the trip, which is five furlongs shorter. But if the ground is heavy his stamina

> Endipe: Ran a good race to finish third behind Suny Bay in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup. An improving sixyear-old who has a good chance of reaching the frame.

will stand him in good stead.

General Wolfe: His jumping lets him down in really competitive events like this one so the General is not one to

Go Ballistic: Had a good season tast year hut has shown very little form since to suggest he can figure here.

Harwell Lad: Last season's Whitbread Gold Cup winner has a mind of his own, refusing to jump on his reappearance and then downing tools on his latest outing. One

Summit in the Welsh Na- ground is soft.

Banio: Useful chaser who tional. I can't see him reversing the form but he could run well.

Welsh National at Chepstow Nahthen Lad: A good horse and is sure to run a hig race on his day who will appreciate the soft ground. Not a definite runner, he may be rerouted to Ascot on Friday. If he does go to Haydock, he should strip fitter for his recent run.

> Simply Dashing: In fine form this season, winning at Wetherby and then taking the First National Bank Chase at Ascot. He was below par in the Tripleprint Gold Cup, however, and may not handle the soft conditions over three energy-sapping miles.

Strath Royal: A grand old horse who has already won four times this term. He was beaten at Wetherby last week when he ran out of steam on unsuitably sticky ground. If it is heavy at Haydock the con-

Conclusion: I expect EARTH SUMMIT to gun down his rivals in the closing stages. Martin Pipe's pair, Eudipe and Indian Tracker, have bags of stamina and won't be Indian Tracker: Better suit- far away but Earth Summit ed to this trip after fading to should get the upper hand on finish fifth behind Earth the run-in, particularly if the

ditions will not suit him.

### CATTERICK

HYPERION 1.10 Nooran 1.40 Forestal 2.10 Fassan 2.40 Danbys Gorse 3.15 Birkdale 3.45 Be Brave

GOING: Soft (Heavy in places).

• Left-hand course, uncluisting and sharp. Not suitable for the long-Stricing horse, Rum-In 20lyds,

Course is NW of town on A6186. Darlington station 14m - bus sarvice to course. ADMISSION: Club ETT; Tattersatis ET; Course 22:50 (under 15e free into all enclosures). CAR PARK: Reserved area 52; remainder Free.

ALEADING TRANIERS: Mrs M Reveley 18-65 (205%), M Hammond 2-12 (0.7%), K Morgan 10-42 (238%), Mrs S Smith 10-76 (132%).

BLADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 24-76 (275%), R Garritry 16-91 (175%), A S Smith 19-72 (181%), A Dobbin 19-99 (137%).

FAVOURTIES: 18 was from 353 races (334%).

BLANGERED FIRST TIME: Hys Prim (10), Heavenly Citizan (240). stricing horse. Plum-in 240yds.

1.10 DARLINGTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS

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1 F20/00 2 440223	SALINGER (40) (D) James of the ST 4	E HONOROO
3 3143-8		The state of
1 224534	LORD OF THE RINGS (8) F Murphy 6 10 8	LA Molio (7
5 SEP531	DRUMEDONNA (829) P Beautions 8 TO 3	A Felo (7
# ASP-0	GONE AWAY (75) M Hammond 9 10 2	FLeeb
-7 554060	COME AWAY (76) M PERMISSO 9 0 2 1	S Taylo
8 F0 002	ONE STOP (24) M Barnes 5 to 0	G F Ry
# 500UA	HUTCHES LADY (17) N HOUSE TO SEE THE	N Horrock
TO 000		
.11.36.PP	ANOTHER PICEA (29) A J Lockwood S 100.	L Cooper (4
-20 ± 300		
2 -000PP	HYA PRIM (36) N Chemberleh 7 100	R McGrath (
A DOOFOF	POLAR WIND (29) N Weggett 9 100	
A OPPO	POLAR WIND (29) IN MODEL OF TO 0	L Customin
MASS HALL	SECRET PER COLD INCOME.	

Individual velocity for the handson majore One Son Set 12b, Hutchies Lady
& Manchen Welcome Set 9b, Navelnockey Set 8b, Another Pices & Pollucel
Manches Set 7b, Hye Prim Set 6b, Pollar Wind Set 4b, Regal Jest Set 1b.

BETTING: 4-1 One Stop, 5-1 Ericolin, Lord of The Rings, 11-2 Nooren. 8-1 Hatchies Ledy, 10-1 Drumdomas, 12-1 Salmige, Another Picea, Regel Jest, 18-1 others

1.40 BEDALE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 1 C2-41 Ham MEGSS 29) (0) M Hammond 7 11 9 ... R Garntry
5 LIP6 APACHE RADER (25) Huspiny 6 11 3 ... B Sorrey
3 04-520 FORESTAL (46) (0) J Howard Johnson 6 11 3 ... B Harding
4 PMG-4 HAMPIDECENT (66) Mrs M Reveley 7 11 3 ... P Néven
6 3P- MAISTAINT (266) Mrs M Reveley 8 11 3 ... N Smith
6 3P- MAISTAINT (266) Mrs M Reveley 8 11 3 ... N Smith
7 06' LITTLE TUSKA (1971) M Meson 8 11 3 ... N Smith
8 104-4 LORD FORTUNE (65) (0) M Hammond 6 11 3 Mr C Servier (5)
9 02PQ4 SHLARS STALIGER (25) (0) Mrs A Swetchen 10 11 3 J Supple
9 02PQ4 SHLARS STALIGER (25) (1) M Hammond 6 11 3 Mr C Servier (5)
9 02PQ4 SHLARS STALIGER (25) (1) Mrs A Swetchen 10 11 3 J Supple
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9 02PQ4 SHLARS STALIGER (25) (1) Mrs A Swetchen 10 11 3 J Supple

2.10 LEYBURN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m

2.10 E) C3,000 added 2m

1 30528 CENTRUR EDPTESS (26) (CD) A Streem 6 20.C McCourteck (5) 2 66-36 BASELES WAY (51) (D) (B7) M/s M Revel 9 11 9 P Niven 3 384-4 FALLE SEPALES (25) L Lungo 10 16 --- W Downing (7) 4 40322 FASSAN (20) (EP) M Hammond 6 11 --- ... R Centrol 9 4 40322 FASSAN (20) (EP) M Hammond 6 11 --- ... R Centrol 9 4 40322 FASSAN (20) (EP) M Hammond 6 11 --- ... R Centrol 9 24-72 CATHERNES CHOICE (23) MHAMMOND 5 12 Mr C Barnes (3) 6 24-72 CATHERNES CHOICE (23) MHAMMOND 5 10 10 ... R Centrol 9 10-005 SLEEPY RAVER (22) (D) J J ONe 7 10 6 --- ... L Cooper 9 10-005 SLEEPY RAVER (22) (D) J J ONe 7 10 6 --- ... L Cooper 10 5-6354 MENSHARA (USA) (23) L Lungo 6 10 1 ... R Supple 10 5-6354 MENSHARA (USA) (23) L Lungo 6 10 1 ... R Supple 11 9-0-07 COURT J ONE (8) H Absonds 6 10 0 ... H McGrath (3) B 2 P66 MR EGLANTINE (B56) A Smith 6 10 0 ... M Homoda (7) ... 12 Goldend -- ... 12 Goldend -- ... Manimum weight: 10st. Time hamilton weight Mr Spietze 66 (5). SETTING: 4-1 Fassen, 5-1 Contratin, 11-2 thislusteids. 13-2 Catherins's Choice, 7-1 Centaur Express, 8-1 Brambles Way, Manimum: 12-1 others

2.40 LEEMING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) 25,000 added 3m 1f 110yds 

3.15 SWALE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 1f 110yds

= 23 (socked = BETTING: 4-1 Tingles Bible, 5-1 Birkdele, 11-2 Old Hueh Wing, 5-1 Glen-

bower, 8-1 Galen, Forrest Tribe, 10-1 Gypsy Race, 12-1 others 3.45 SEAMER NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 edded 2m 3f 1 1/331U MINISTER GLORY [28] (C) M W Essterby 7 11 10 R Carridy 2 (2:36P STAGE FRIGHT [3] F Murphy 7 11 2 M Foster

**₽** 

HETTING: 11-4 Coolers. 7-2 Futbertry Ledy, 9-2 Thorisothyles Less, 7-1 Gus Cansingham, 10-1 Kallan Scanp, 15-1 Birotox Boy, Justiliajian, Syl-can Express, Alu-Lady, 20-1 others



ROWBOTTOM

ON THE FACUP AND THE FAME FACTOR

FA Cup runs are a hit like fam- Bear around the ground on the ily Christmases - certain traditions must be observed.

And this week Stevenage Borough, the non-Leaguers operation has gone bonkers. who meet Newcastle in tomorrow's fourth round, have served up traditional Cup fare with all the trimmings. (Sorry, I forgot to honour another little Cup tradition there -Mighty Newcastle).

The inhahitants of the Hertfordshire New Town have re- Army versus Toon Army acted with time-bonoured fervour to the progress of their representatives, who have already disposed of two Nationwide League sides, Cambridge United and Swindon Town, en

The number of home mascots who will accompany Boro can only speculate over ...

day of the hig match bas had to be pegged to four. Meanwhile the club's merchandising

"If it's red and white and it says Stevenage Borough it's selling itself at the moment," said the club's dazed commercial manager, Clive Ahrey. "It has been unbelievable.

Scarves? Two years' supply gone in three weeks. Barmy sweatshirts? Couldn't get enough on the stalls.

And the man who makes the replica team shirts ran out of material. Before he did, at least two dozen had gone north east to satisfy the demands of Sunderland and Middlesbrough fans, for reasons one

possessing white-with-funnyred-diagonal-stripe purchases. and wonder: Why did I bother?

They too are part of the

great tradition, spiritually akin to the Crystal Palace fans who lumbered themselves with fedoras which replicated those worn by their flamboyant manager Malcolm Allison during the 1976 Cup run to the semifinals. Or the Brighton fans who, in misguided tribute, purchased versions of the white disco-dancing shoes favoured by their twinkle-toed manager Jimmy Melia as the Seagulls

Cup final. But if these strange quirks represent the crackling, roast potatoes and brussels sprouts tune with something scarily

made their way to the 1983 FA

will re-discover their unpre- no mistaking the traditional turkey - the club song,

You don't expect much of a football song. Not melody. Not wit. Not even sense. But you do

Blue is the colour, football is the game, we're all together, and winning is our aim." It's a midfield workhorse, it gets up old Arsenal, we're proud to sing that name. While we sing this song we'll win the game."

Well, perhaps that one shouldn't be dignified with the title of workhorse. You can't deny, though, that it rbymes. So fine, we know where we stand.

Three Lions confused the issue for a while, being a song which combined a recognisable

like Alberto Tarantini at Birmingham City.

In the country of the footballing anthem, one-eyed orthodoxy is all. And the ditty currently being played on every local radio station within a 100 mile radius of Stevenage fits nicely into the landscape - give and down. As does this: "Good or take a little local variation. "We're so proud to be the

crowd, Who are going to shout it loud, Stevenage\_Stevenage... Stevenage, we're loud and proud." Never mind the Three Lions, feel those three rhymes. It's very much the anthem in

form. But then...perplexingly...this: "Newcastle or Swindon Town, No one's going to shout us down, Boro, Boro, Boing-boing-boing, You're the boys that's

In years to come, those fans of the Cup-run repast, there is close to real feeling. But in the always going to make us sing."

Il re-discover their unpre- no mistaking the traditional footballing canon, it stood out As Hamlet once lamented, what a falling off was there. Why, I wondered, couldn't it have been 'hing-hing-bing'? Same difference - still mean-

ingless - but a rhyme with sing? I turned for explanation to the man responsible for the words and music of Hertforshire's fastest moving new entry, the Stevenage Borough announcer, Andrew Green.

And the answer was that when Stevenage are on the attack, their supporters like to sing - to the tune of Guantanamera, naturally - "Boing in a minute, we're going to boing in a minute..." Or sometimes, for no apparent reason, they just like to go: "Boing boing

Boro." Where does the chant come

from? Someone at the club thought it had something to do with West Bromwich Albion. What does it mean, exactly? No one knows. Ah, the inane mystery of it all...

When Mr Green is not transmitting his voice across Broadhall Way he is an independent radio producer who has also presented Radio Three's In Tune programme, featuring everything from Mozart and Beethoven to Benjamin Britten

and Vaughan Williams. It would be nice to think some of the classical influences had carried over into his most recent enterprise - and it would also be quite wrong.

How long, I asked, had the whole thing taken him to compose? "About half an bour," he

1.44

SUPER BOWL XXXII: GREEN BAY PACKERS V DENVER BRONCOS

# Elway seeks the ring of ultimate approval

A three-time loser is pulling in the sympathy vote for tomorrow's showdown on the gridiron. Nick Halling reports from San Diego.

In the ruthlessly professional husiness of sport in the United States, there is little place for sentiment. That is particularly true at the Super Bowl, where the winners are feted as conquering champions, while the losers are left to slink bome as hest they can under a cloak of agonymity.

The unforgiving emptiness of defeat in the big game is something Denver's quarterback, John Elway, has experienced three times during a long and illustrious career. On champions, the Green Bay Packers, in Super Bowl XXXII. Few people are giving the 37vear-old Elway much hope the bookmakers bave installed the Packers as 12- point favourites - hut there is little doubt that should be somehow confound the naysayers, Elway's achievement will be hailed as one of the most heart-warming stories in the history of the game.

Elway has achieved so much since joining the Broncos 15 years ago, that few would begrudge him his title. Even the Packers' head coach. Mike Holmgren, has sensed the mood of the nation. "I think a lot of people are going to root for John Elway," he said. "I have coached quarterbacks all my life, and it's not often you get a chance to be around a player like John. He's done so much that I fully understand the sentiment to-

With his decade and a half of unbroken service, and with

an unblemisbed record away possessing the poorest record in the NFL that year, the feeble their intention to select the exciting youngster from Stanford giate draft. Elway promptly announced that he bad no intention of joining a bunch of losers like the Colts, threatening instead to pursue a promising baseball career with the New

Eventually a compromise ter emotionally." was reached. Elway joining the Broncos. Baltimore being compensated with a collection of draft picks. In hindsight, his decision was a sound one (the player physically now, but I'm Sunday, be faces the prospect Colts again finished with the a better quarterback mentally. of another painful loss as his worst record this season) hut I don't take as many chances You went where you were drafted: the young upstart's arrogance threatened the very fahric of the game.

In the intervening years, all has been forgiven and forgotten. In a game obsessed with statistics, Elway's achievements are easy to measure. Second only to Miami's Dan Marino in career passing yards (48,669); second in total offence (51,982); and fifth in career touchdown passes with 278. He has generated 44 game saving drives, more than any other quarterback in history; he has completed a remarkable 12 3,000-yard passing seasons, and is one of only two players to rush for over 3,000 and pass for over 40,000 yards

in his career. must be set the fact that Elway took his team to the championship game in three years out of four in the late 1980s and was found wanting every time. The New York Giants beat the Broncos 39-20 in Super Bowl XXI, the Washington Redskins

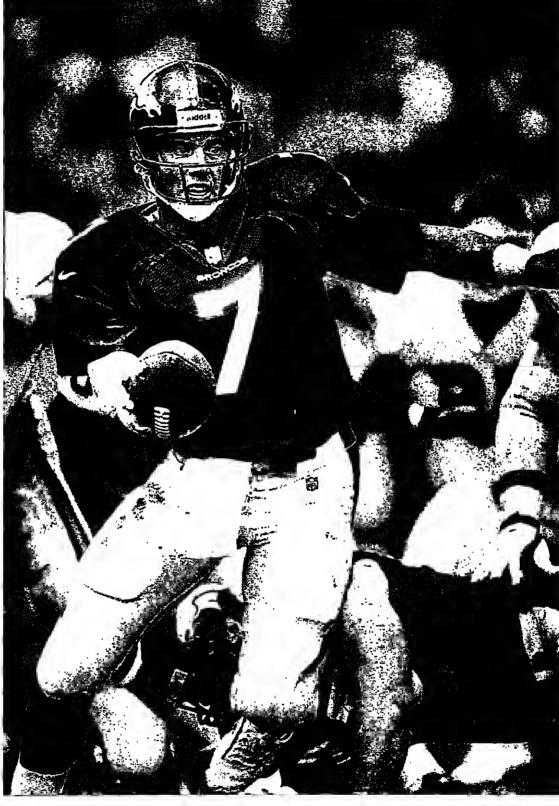
overwhelmed them 42-10 a year from the gridiron, Elway is later, and in Super Bowl XXIV, seen as the embodiment of all the ultimate humiliation, a that is good in the game. It is a 55-10 loss to San Francisco, the far cry from when be entered most lopsided scoreline in the teague in 1983. By virtue of Super Bowl history. Elway's personal tally from the three disasters: 46 completions from Baltimore Colts announced 101 pass attempts, two touchdowns and six interceptions.

"John's problem is that he's University in the annual colle- heen habied by everybody," said the former quarterback Terry Bradshaw, a four-time winner with Pittsburgh, following the San Francisco débacle. "Is he a great quarterback? No, be's very good, hut he's too inconsistent. He has to get bet-

"Time has eased some of the pain, but it was really rough going through it at the time," Elway said. "I'm not as good a I'm making better decisions. Experience makes up for a lot of things."

What it cannot compensate for is the quality of the opposition, and in Green Bay, Elway faces another daunting challenge. Led by the defensive end Reggie White, the Packers hoast an uncompromising defence which effectively shut down Tampa Bay and San Francisco in the play-offs, and will be confident of delivering a similar fate to the Broncos. The pre-game talk has been

dominated not by the Packers and their quest to defend their title, but by whether an older. wiser quarterhack can grah what might be his last chance at immortality. Elway, a Yet against these numbers smooth, experienced media operator, has been saying all the right things, putting the game into perspective, and saying how it pales into insignificance alongside his feelings for his wife and four children.



that in this win-at-all-costs business, Elway risks being labelled as the man who could not win the one that mattered. And in one of the most revealing moments of an oth-However, be understands erwise predictable week, be pens.

for one Super Bowl ring. The answer was immediate, "Yes, In a heartbeat." On Sunday, a nation will be hoping it hap- Green Bay Packers.

was asked if he would trade his Looking for a winning way: John Elway has individual accomplishments to lose the tag of a quarterback who canot win the big one if he is to acquire greatness. He may have his last chance tomorrow when the his Denver Broncos take on the Photograph: Allsport

### History and Favre dog underdogs

History and current form suggest that Green Bay will prove too strong for the Denver Broncos, but the underdogs are not without hope, and if they can keep the Packers in their sights going into the second half, an upset in Super Bowl XXXII is a possibility.

If the Broncos manage to execute a flawless game, they stand every chance. In their running back Terrell Davis, they have a player who pounded out 1,700 yards during the season. Containing Davis will be crucial for the Packers, and much will depend on the fitness of defensive tackie Gilbert Brown. When he is healthy, Green Bay are notoriously difficult to run against, but Brown has been slowed by an ankle injury in recent weeks.

"The key for us to win is to just play our game," said the Packers' formidable defensive end, Reggie White. "If we don't, this Denver team will definitely beat us. They are capable of beating anybody." Should Davis fail to impose himself on the contest, the Broncos could lose heavily. In contrast, the Packers have an arsenal of offensive weaponry at their disposal, sufficient to keep the best prepared defence off balance.

Their quarterback, Brett Favre, is guilty of occasional lapses in concentration, but no one can match his capacity to create something out of nothing. His primary targets, Robert Brooks and Antonio Freeman, are both potential match-winners, while in tight end Mark Chmura, the Packers have a sure-handed, reliable performer. When they run the ball, Dorsey Levens is effective behind the punishing blocks of full-back William Henderson.

"Everybody knows about Green Bay's offense, those guys are just explosive," said the Broncos' cornerback, Ray Crockett. "They can make hig plays any time, and they have the best quarterback in the game."

In the National Football League, size matters, and it is at the line of scrimmage that the Packers enjoy a big advantage. Green Bay's offensive front will look to dominate their lighter, faster opponents. If they are successful, Favre will have the time be needs to run riot.

Denver's quarterback, John Elway, will need time too, a commodity likely to be in short supply should the Packers utilise the power of White and the speed of the linebackers Seth Joyner and Brian Williams.

In four previous Super Bowl attempts, Denver have never come close to victory. In contrast, the Packers have yet to taste defeat, and have compiled an NFL record 12 championships in their distinguished history. Tomorrow evening in southern California, 13 looks like being unlucky for the Broncos.

- Nick Halling, San Diego

NG DIG

### Beachley rises to high priestess in the temple of machismo

Time was when Hawaii's big waves were only for the big boys. Now, when the surf is high, it's the babes who are no longer content just to decorate the beach.

"You're out?" Ken Bradshaw once scathingly exclaimed in the line-up at Waimea Bay, "Then I'm going in - it must be too small!" He bappened to be addressing Banzai Betty (Betty Depolito, now a surf-video producer) at the time - almost a decade ago - but it could have been just about any woman.

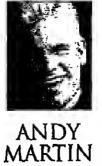
Women were chicks and they belonged on the beach, certainly not at the temple of machismo that is the Bay. The realm of big-wave riding used to be more exclusive than the Catholic Church where women were concerned, more pballocentric than football,

It is a measure of how much the whole scene has evolved that Bradshaw - Bradshaw "the

Monk", the guardian of orthodoxy - is now not just consorting with Layne Beachley, but actually surfing with her at big Waimea. Beachley, admittedly, has just taken the inaugural women's Triple Crown utile (for the best aggregate result in a trio of contests around the North Sbore), winning the Ouiksilver Roxy Pro at Sunset Beach and moving up to the No 2 spot in the world rankings. Beachley, 25, from Sydney,

has made the North Sbore her second home. Although Lisa Andersen, from Florida, has taken the world title for the fourth time in a row and is generally described as "ripping like a guy", it is Beachley who has been earning the respect for her performances, specifically in big waves. The Roxy was contested in 8-12ft surf with most of Beachiey's rivals clamouring to call it off. "No girls surf Sunset," she said, "so it was easy for me."

So far there is not a single woman's name on the list of invitees for the Eddie Aikau contest (20ft minimum waves), but



NEWS FROM THE NORTH SHORE

Beachley could ultimately be the one. "I'm not ready for 20plus," she said when I spoke to her at the Coffee Gallery in Haleiwa after a dawn patrol with Bradshaw. "I want to be in a control situation - not a survival situation." But she is credited with being the only woman out

breakfast that might have tested Desperate Dan: a "surf bum" burrito followed by a waffle and not one hut two yogurt "cups" (bucket would be more apt) piled high with fruit and

Had there been a cow pie on the menu sbe would have had that too. The last person I came across to hurn calories on this scale was Greg LeMond on the Tour de France. And the surfing circuit is not so much a prolonged holiday (as most people fondly imagine), hut more like a year-long world-wide epic uf endurance and stamina.

There is a small but significant presence of iron women on the North Shore. Out of 300 lifeguards on the island of Oahu only five are women. On the North Shore there is only one: Sue Stewart, from Huntington Beach on the West Coast, a real-life Baywatch habe who could outpower David Hasselhof in the water let alone Pamela Anderson.

When she is not pulling

She ate the kind of hearty 300th, 6ft 5in Oklahoma farm- that I would be the one," ers out of the rip in 8ft Pipeline, she dives off a 40ft rock at Waimea Falls for fun.

She was working the Bay the day Donnie Solomon died in 20plus waves. "He tried to duckdive under a three-wave set. But he got turned over and we saw him go down. But by the time we got to him there was just too much water and sand in his lungs," Stewart said, "There's nothing worse than watching someone go down - and you can't do a thing about it."

Her predecessor here is Debbie Wayman (née Bowers), who is probably the only woman born in South Ruislip to become first a pro surfer (rising as high as No 2), then a lifeguard, and finally a firefighter,

after moving to Hawaii as a kid. She was the only girl to surf her local break at Ewa beach where she acquired her nickname of "motor arms". But even she - Sigourney Weaver's long-lost twin - was shy of big Waimea.

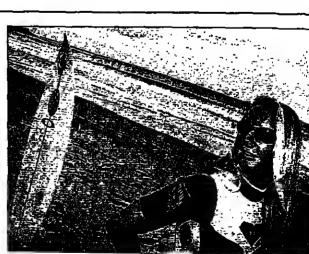
"Everybody had the idea

Wayman said. "But that was beyond my limits. You have to know them utherwise you become part of the problem not the solution."

She carried out some joint rescues with the guy who occupied the tower next to bers and ended up marrying him. They used to compete in lifeguard contests together, but she is fitter and faster than he is. "In running, paddling, swimming. I've got him, hut he can

cook better than I can." The toughest thing about being a woman lifeguard is that half the people you rescue - all the guys - slope off without ever saying thank you, humiliated at being saved by a woman.

Maybe there was a touch of that emotion the day that Johnny Boy Gomes, the newly ratified Pipeline Master, punched the Australian pro Jodie Cooper, adding by way of justification, "If you're going to surf like a guy I'm going to treat you like a guy." It was a hack-handed



Iron woman: Layne Beachley

Photograph: Tim Clayton

Women are now being taken seriously in a way they never were before. They have a new dedicated magazine, Surfer Girl. And they are attracting proportionately more attention and sponsorship (Beachley has Billabong and Oakley behind her).

Surfing is a microcosm and mirror of the culture at large. The Rell Sunn funeral last weekend - which coincided with the Martin Luther King holiday - symbolised a massive shift in the collective consciousness. Three thousand

people came to Makaha to celebrate the life of this pioneering surf pro and first female lifeguard in Hawaii as her ashes were scattered over her favourite break.

More than two centuries ago, when Captain Cook first came across these islands, he was astonished to observe not just the spectacle of surfing itself, but also that men and women were equally adept in water sports. The mass surf-in in honour of Rell Sunn testifies to the re-birth of the Hawaiian

point. Two players, the Ulster-

man Raymood Burns and the

South African Wayne Westner.

were docked a shot and fined

£500 in the first round and this

time Westwood hlamed officials

The crackdown on slow play

in European Tour tournaments

was requested by the players.

hut Westwood - chasing a

fourth victory in six starts - said:

"I was a bit upset and to be

timed was ridiculous. The rules

for costing him a shot-

GOLF: JOHNNIE WALKER CLASSIC

Woosnam wilts as

Els forges ahead

If there is someone other than

Tiger Woods that Europe's

finest players would rather not

chase in a tournament, then that

player is the South African,

But, entering the third

round of the Johnnie Walker

Classic in Phuket, Thailand. to-

day, it is Els, the defending

champion as well as the US

Open champion, who leads the

Despite the intense heat, a

way on a 12-under-par 132.

further back after a 67 - and

Woods now IJ adrift in joint

The sponsors who are pay-

ing him a million dollars to play

will have expected a lot better.

row. Woods answered: "Me".

Thomas Bjorn, the Ryder

Ernie Els.

22nd place.

TENNIS: AUSTRALIAN OPEN

# Sampras on a roll as Korda comes closer

Pere Sampras is confining his gambling to the blackjack tables as the odds shortened on a successful defence of his Australian Open title in Melbourne yesterday.

Sampras, who has carned around \$32m (£21.3m) in prize money alone, admits to betting \$1,000 in the local casino, but he will not put a cent on his own chances. The world No I outclassed Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson yesterday to move into the fourth round and edge closer to his 11th Grand Slam.

Sampras - yet to drop a set - triumphed 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 to book a meeting with Morocco's Hicham Arazi, who beat the Frenchman Francisco Clavet in a five-set march.

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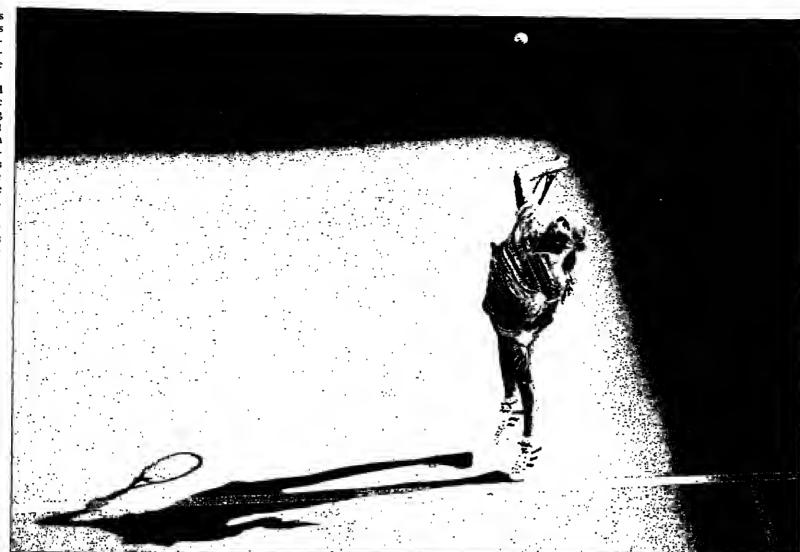
History and Favre dog underdogs

"He doesn't have a serve that is going to hlow you off the court, but he will get it out wide," said Sampras of Arazi, who heat local hero Mark Philippoussis, seeded 15, in the previous round.

The first real test for Sampras could come in a potential semi-final match with Petr Korda, the man who denied him in the last Grand Slam tournament when the Czech won in five sets in the US Open last year. Korda also took him to five sets at Wimhledon.

Korda celehrated his 30th hirthday yesterday with a straight-sets victory over the American Vincent Spadea. He now faces last year's Wimbledon runner-up. Cedric Pioline of France, who heat the No II seed, Alex Corretja, in straight sets.

The higgest surprise came in the women's event as the French Open champion, Iva Majoli, was beaten by Thai-



Shadow play: Russia's Anna Kournikova serves during her second-round doubles defeat in Melhourne yesterday

6-2 win, which put the Thai playland's Tamarine Tanasugarn, er into the fourth round of a was playing well and I was feel- in the last round, beat France's Tanasugarn, 20, left the Croat- Grand Slam for the first time. ing well and a thing like this hap- Amelie Mauresmo.

Majoli had no idea what hit pens, and I didn't do anything her. "I think I'm the most different." The unseeded shocked person because I was American Venus Williams, who feeling great," Majoli said, "I knocked out her sister Serena

continued when he injured himself at the players' party in Melbourne. The Croatian fined \$5,800 this week for swearing and failing to attend a press confer-

amusement machine last night. Ivanisevic went to hospital with an ice pack over the wound.

- Derrick Whyte, Melbourne

right eye when he fell off an

while playing the 16th and Goran Ivanisevic's awful week ence, suffered a cut close to his eventually slumped to an 81. "That's the worst I've ever felt playing golf," he said. "It was

Photograph: Rick Stevens/AP

hot, yet I felt cold." For the second day running

after shooting 76.

sparkling 65 - one outside Greg need looking at. "We were not holding up the Norman's course record - left him three ahead of the German, group behind and it was stupid. In this heat there's got to be lee-Alexander Cejka, and four clear of Ireland's Padraig Harrington. Lee Westwood is five back following a 66, Nick Faldo one

way. Everybody's trying to rush us around nowadays, but it's so hot you don't walk as quickly and you don't want players collapsing."

The "hurry up" came on the long 15th and Westwood said he did indeed rush and did not make the hirdie he was expecting after finding the fringe of the However, when asked whom he green in two. would put his money on to win

One person unable to hurry the £133,330 first prize tomorwas Els's Yorkshire-born caddie Ricky Roherts, who twisted his Ian Woosnam, the winner ankle. "I don't know if he'll be two years ago in Singapore. failed to survive the cut on five able to work over the weekend." over. "1 played terrible, but I Els said, "Hopefully he'll be OK, because he is so good at his job." didn't have high expectations here - not in this heat," he said

. And so is Els. The world No 3 had six hirdies in seven holes from the fifth and added another Cup player, also went out after at the 15th for good measure.

sharing the first-day pace with Faldo, who has started to hole Els. Bjorn, who had a stomach long-range putts again, had sevupset, felt close to collapse en hirdies, but undid two of them by pulling an eight-iron into the lake at the short 14th and taking five. He came home in 31.

serious golf since November, was also on the hirdie trail, sinking slow play became a talking six in a round of 67.

Harrington, playing his first

RUGBY LEAGUE

### Jackson bargain for Eagles

Halifax's former Great Britain forward Michael Jackson for a game's first round of conditional against Swinton. transfer tribunals.

pull out of the deal if they felt high, but went ahead with the

er new signing. Darren Shaw. Michael gives us plenty of options in the second row," said the Eagles coach, John Kear. who still hopes to sign the his Wigan debut in their friendly Leeds and New Zealand stand- at Leigh. John Monie is fielding off Tony Kemp before Monday's two teams of roughly equal Challenge Cup deadline.

U-21 winger, Chris Smith. Saints ed the capacity will be reduced will also have to pay an extra to 17,000 this season.

Sheffield Eagles have signed £15,000 after 20 first-team ap-

ian No 4 seed, who beat Mar-

tina Hingis, in the French Open

final, close to tears after a 6-0,

Schofield will turn out for the side his own testimonial at Leeds. signing after yesterday's ruting. Leeds' Test prop Barrie Me- Faimalo. "With Paul Carr and our oth- Dermott will play his first game for six months after recovering from a badly broken ankle.

Robbie McCormack, the strength tomorrow, with the oth-In another tribunal ruling. St er playing Whitehaven behind Helens must pay Castleford closed doors at Central Park. £60,000 for their Great Britain wher thelocal council has insist-

Warrington will give first pearances, plus another £5,000 if outings to their new signings he wins a full cap. Smith is avil- Jason Roach. Mike Eagar. bargain £28,000, after the able for tomorrow's friendly Adam Doyle, Danny Whittle and Chris Morley - in their The former Great Britain match for Andy Burgess' tes-Sheffield reserved the right stand-off and captain Garry timonial at Salford, Salford also field an array of newcomthe tribunal's valuation was too he now coaches, Huddersfield, in ers, including Martin Crompton, Josh White and Joe

> Fears that Warrington's Great Britain tour centre. Jon Roper, will need a knee reconstruction have been allayed, Australian hooker, will make Roper's injury is not as bad as first thought and he could be hack in time for the Challenge Cup in three weeks' time.

The chief executive of Super League Europe, Colin Myler, has resigned from the joint policy board which is intended to oversee the game's strategy. Dave Hadfield

### Knapp's Old Boys hoping to knock out Cannock

Two non-National League chalk but we have been trainvision One's Stourport while Old Cranleighans, from the South League, are at home to

strikes the Surrey club. David Knapp, the Old hut Knupp says the Region-Blandford today has priority.

Cannock also have a crucial League game, at Southgate this afternoon. Knapp said: "We know we are the underdogs by a long, long

clubs will be striving tomor- ing hard, done our homework now to be the first to reach the and are confident. We know semi-finals of the EHA Cup. we can't give any quarter. Chichester, from the ESL. However we have our game South Premier, entertain Di-plan and with a huge slice of

The fellow Welsh internationals Jon Rees and Premier National League Mark Smith and the England leaders Cannock as Cup fever Olympian Don Williams, will be in the Old Boys' line-up.

In Orense, Spain, Eng-Boys player-coach, is one of land began the defence of tour former internationals in their European Indoor title the line-up to face Cannock with a 3-1 win over Slovakia. Scotland, in the same Pool, al League game against overcame a two-goal deficit to draw with Lithuania.

> In Sydney. England won the second match of their tour against an Australian Senior . Youth side.

~ Bill Colwill

### BASKETBALL

### Gottfried's injury hits Towers' title tilt ager, Rick Taylor, said: "The

London Towers' rocky pursuit of the Budweiser League title has taken another hump with a possible long-term injury to the England international Martin Gottfried, who misses tomorrow's trip to fellow championship contenders Sheffield

during Sunday's 66-65 defeat age, we can't guess." against second-placed Newcastle. London's second defeat ous meeting with Sheffield reagainst the Eagles in seven sulted 88-76 win for the Sharks Sheffield and Greater London days left the Towers clinging to at Wemhley in late November, Leopards in the League Trophy a two-point lead at the top.

first examination of Martin's injury was inconclusive because the knee was too swollen for the specialist to make a diagnosis. There is no break or dislocation but it could be ligament damage. He is due another examiion this weekend and until Gottfried injured his knee we know the extent of the dam-

London's only other previon the night they announced semi-finals. The London general man-signing the former Cleveland

Cavalier John Amaechi. Amaechi gets his first crack at Towers tomorrow and the coach, Chris Finch, said: "This time I'm hoping we may try to match them more inside now we have John. He's gone up against some hig guys in his time."

Tonight at Birmingham's NIA. Newcastle defend a fourpoint lead against the Bullets in their quarter-final second leg as they attempt to join Towers,

-- Richard Taylor

SAILING

### Bekking steps in for Maisto on Merit Cup

Dutchman Bouwe Bekking to replace co-skipper Guido Maisto on Merit Cup for the next leg of the Whithread Round the World Race from New Zealand to Brazil. The nine-boat fleet leaves Auckland for the 6.670mile fifth leg to Sao Sebastiao a week today.

Bekking, who was a watch leader on Dennis Conner's sprint to Southampton. Winston in the last race, is a leading figure on the Admiral Cup, world inshore and Mumm 36 circuits. He is expected, also, to race the eighth leg from boat later.

Grant Dalton is to hring in the Baltimore to La Rochelle. His appointment signifies a modi-New Zealander Tom Dodson.

Dodson, one of the tactical will race leg six from Brazil to Fort Lauderdale, leg seven to proving. Baltimore, and the finishing

Maisto has had to return to Italy for medical attention to a skin complaint on his right arm and hand. He may rejoin the

the Mumm 36s, the American fication to Dalton's strategy as Dee Smith, has been confirmed Bekking will alternate with the as co-skipper of Chessie Racing for the fifth lcg. Smith was on board for the other southern hrains behind New Zealand's ocean leg, from Cape Town to America's Cup win in 1995. Fremantle, since when the boat's fortunes have been im-

One of Bekking's rivals in

Staying with George Collins' team is the New Zealand helmsman Gavin Brady, with John Kostecki returning to Chessie for the race's later

- Stuart Alexander, Auckland

SNOOKER

### Hunter takes another scalp and is now ready to rein in Ebdon

Open in Newport vesterday as Alan McManus. he beat a player in the top 16

the elimination of the six-times day's match with Peter Ebdon. moved 2-1 ahead.

Paul Hunter defied a lack of ex- world champion, Steve Davis, is guaranteed at least £16,000

perience to reach the semi finals and the eighth seed. Nigel - the largest single cheque of his of the £350,000 Regal Welsh Bond, scored a 5-3 victory over three-year professional career. Hunter opened with a break "I'm delighted with that and of 68 but McManus, who fluked

for the third time in the event. now I can't wait for my next a hlue on 41, replied with a 125 The 19-year-old from match," said Hunter, who, re- total clearance in the second Leeds, already responsible for gardless of the outcome of to- and, aided by a run of 82,

McManus missed a straightforward pink early in the fourth when presented with another golden scoring opportunity and Hunter eventually took a scrappy affair to level at 2-2.

A green to pink clearance advantage of 3-2 but, in the re- a contribution of 67.

maining frames, a sequence of errors undermined his chances. Hunter, the world No 43, levelled at 3-3 with a 49 hreak.

put togethera 57 in the seventh when McManus had jawed an elementary red, and then held enabled McManus to regain the on in the eighth after posting

### SPORTING DIGEST

American football Jon Gruden, the former Philadelphia Eagles offensive coordinator, has been appointed coach of the NFL's

Calcand Raiders.
The World League is to be known as NFL Europe. The 10-week spring league, a joint venture with the Fox network, will begin its 1998 season on the weekend of 4-5 April. World Bowl 98 is scheduled for Frankfurt's Waldstadion on Sunday, 14 June.
1998 AMERICAN SOME 2 AURUST Green Bay 1988 AMERICAN BOWL 2 August Green Bay Packers v Krauss City Chiefe (Tokyo): 15 Au-put Ban Princisco 48ers v Searilo Scatawka Vindozant; 17 August Dales Cowboys v New Ingland Patricta (Menco City).

Athletics Wilson Kipketer, the world 800m record-holder, is in hospital in Faro, southern Portugal, undergoing treat-ment for months.

Basketball

SAGA WORLD INDOOR CHAMPIJONSHIPS
Preston) Singles, first round: N Booth (A) bt
E-Alcock (Eng) 5-7-3-7-5-7-6. Pairs final: G
Roberson and R Corniel (Soo) bt 6 Smith and
A Thorson (Eng) 7-4-4-7-6-7-1-1-0.

Vitilatine County Cricket Club and the demens of Headingley, Leeds Cricket, Spotball & Athletic Co Ltd. ara to meet fact, Friday to discuss their plans to lead first-class and Test cricket at the Dark transparent than move to Weep inst-class and Test cricket at the Leads venue rather than move to Wetcefact. CARLTON & UNITED FINAL WORLD SERIES (Malbourne): South Africa 241 for 9 (50 chers;

G Kinsten 70; Austrelle 215 (435 overs; S R Waugh S3, M G Beven 57) South Africa won by six runs and lead 1-0 in best-of-drare series. SHEFFIELD SHIELD (First day of four): Bris-bens: Cosereland 405 for 9 (A J Bichel 100, A Symonds 100) v Victoria.

Jan Eriksson is to leave Sunderland for the American side Tampa Bay Mutiny on a free transfer. The former Swedish International has made only one start since signing from Helsing-borgs for £250,000 s year ago Ganatuca Festa, the Middlesbrough restranger has renowed a near-metric. defender, has received a one-match ben after being sent off against lpswich test Saturday. Festa will miss the First Division matich at Stoke City on Sun-

Division material action only of the control of the Renzo Ulivieri, the coach of the Italan Serie A club Bologna, has withien seried to resign. He had been involved in a dispute with the former international Roberto Baggio, who refused to sit on the bench for netused to sit on use butter the Bologra's match against Juventus last weekend, but the two have now settled their differences.

TRANSFER Wayne Colline midleder Shetiald Wednesday to Fulham Exposory.

TRINGSHER VINE CARRY THE C

Golf
JOHNNIE WALKER CLASSIC (Phukat, Thei)
Leading second-round scores (GB or int unless statistic): 132 E ES (SA) 67 65 135 A Cefee (Ger) 76 81 136 P Harmagine 87 137 L
Westerood 71 86: P O'Malley (Aus.) 69 68 138
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Aveel (Ind) 70 71 142 P Balser 73 69, F Terreud
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(US) 72 71. S Struker (Ger) 73 70, B King (Aus.)
71 72 M Malen (Aus.) 69 75 144 Park, No-sept. (F) 73 99, Zhang Lien-wei (Cn) 70 72; R Goodon (SA) 71 71, 143 L Parsons (Aus) 63 75; P Minoza (Phil) 73 70, M Esob (Aus) 73 68. T N Woods (LS) 71 72; M Allen (Aus) 68 75; 144 Park Ne-seok (Long 17); N Struver (N2) 73 74; M Hag (Aus) 68 75; 144 Park Ne-seok (Long 17); T 2; F Gassa (Phil) 77, T 3; M Strain (Aus) 69 75; 145 Park Nelsen (N2) 73 71; H Meshies (Sci 77); T 2; F Casas (Phil) 77, T 3; W Strain (Aus) 69 75; 145 D Cole (Aus) 70 75; R Allentw (Aus) 75 75; P Barragon (Aus) 73 72; S Caycock (Aus) 75 75; M Harwood (Aus) 73 72; S Caycock (Aus) 75 75; M Harwood (Aus) 75 76; D Howel (Aus) 75 77; M Herwood (Aus) 75 78; D Lawrin 71 75; M Gentral (Aus) 75 77; M Herwood (Aus) 75 78; D Lawrin 71 75; M Caycock (LS) 76 78; P Lawrin 71 75; M Harwood (Aus) 75 76; D Howel (Aus) 75 77; M Harwood (Aus) 75 78; M Hallon 75; P J M 175; P J Howel 75; P J J M 175; P J J M 1

Wester (SAI 79 73, P Golding T7 75, W Wester (SAI 79 73, P Walton 78 74, 153 "Hong Cho-yu (fa) 71, P Walton 78 74, 153 "Hong Cho-yu (fa) 77, P Patrey (Aus) 75 78, 9 Jacquelin Fig. 87, 36, Attrik-onen (Fai) 78 79, 9 Caye 76 77, D Probentson 77 76; J Robson 78 79, 9 Coven (fc.) 78 75 " dentroes amateur US PGA PHOENIX OPEN Loading first round accores from the (US unless statistic) five players attill on course when destiness hafted playing at till on course when destiness hafted playing at till on course when destiness hafted playing at till on course when destiness hafted playing SI white 68 S Suicker 8 Goldenger 65 S Jones D Dursel, Prince 65 Jones D Walton 77 Washon N Fros Girmi 5 McCarron R Fefth J Leonard, K Gbson 98 J Jackson 60 Dep O Weldorf 7 Washon P Michalson D Edwards D Pracky, D Forsman (Cent J Farmey Swe) 7 Ammour 8 Hermanger, S Rasch Selected; 69 V Shoth (Fil), F Nobio (N.2) 70 J Och 71 S Lyle (dSi.)

Hockey WOMEN'S TOUR MATCH (Sydney): Aug-

Ice hockey NHL Prisourch 3 New Jersey 2, Philadelphia 4 NY Rangers 3: Carolina 4 Chienna 2; Toronto 3 Chicago 0, St Louis 3 NY Islanders 3 roy, Am-hem 4 Colonado 3, Los Angules 3 Forda 1 Motor racing

di may start the new Formula One season with the Tyriel hearn. Tyriel have aready named the 23-year-old Japanese Tora Takagi as one of their drivers for this year, but are booking for someone expenienced as his ream-mate. Otympic Games

The Brazilan Tarso Marques, who has opted out of his contract with Minar-Snooker

The Japanese Justice Minstry decide yesterday to allow the Austrian ski jumper Andreas Goldberger, who has admitted using cocaine, sito the country to compele at next month's Win-ter Olympics

Skiing

ALPINE WDRLD CUP Men's downhill (Rizzbühel, Aut): 1 D Cuche (Swit) 2mm 3155ec (first leg 1:15 75, second leg 1:1580); 2 N Burn Fin 27169 (1 803), 1:1569, 3 H. Cretter IFI 2 3187 (1:1524, 1 859; 4 9 J Grunerfelder (Swit) 2 3204 (1:156, 1:1589, 4 Schlieter (Aut) 2:220 (1:156, 1:1587, 4 Schlieter (Aut) 2:220 (1:156, 1:1567, 8 K Grecher (II) 2:222 (1:185, 1:1567, 8 K Grecher (II) 2:223 (1:155, 1:1567, 1 M Ferraman (III) 2:23 (1:1567, 1 8 Schlieter (III) 2:30 (1:1567, 1 8 Schlieter (III) 2:30

Statistics 1-1-1 (1977) - 1 in North Confession 1-1-1 (1978) - 1 in North Confession 1-1 (1978) - 1 in North Confession 1-1 in

an Ooyle, the manager of Stephen Hendry, was yesterday served with a writ by the governing body, the World Professional Billiands and Snooker Association. The writ relates to alleged libelious statements made by Ooyle in an article in a Scottish newspaper last month. David Taylor, the former leading play-

er and the Edinburgh businessman Jim McMahon have joined the board of the

World Professional Bilkards and

Speed skating SPECO SKAZUNG
EUROPEAN SHORT TRACK CHAMPI-ONSHR'S (Budapest): 1,500m; Marx 1 F Car-to (II) 2mn 26,390sec; 2 N Franceschine (II) 226,522; 3 D Versuog (Neth) 22,7394, 4 N Gooch (38) 22,7395; 5 D Chousier (FI) 225,530; 6 M Antonoii (II) 3:01543, Women 1 M Cen-cin (II) 225,291, 2 E Wiegers (Neth) 225,580; A E Thranka (Rus) 227,239; 5 S Bouvier (FI) 228,741; 5 Y kurce (Ger) 2,32,222.

Squash
Chris Walker, the England captain, has withdrawn from the National Championships, which start in Manchester next Thursday. The seventh seed is troubled by a calf injury sustained while winning the World doubles championship in Hong Kong last month with Mark Cairos. Sumo

Squash

SUMO
NEW YEAR GRAND TOURNAMENT (Tokyo)
13th day of 15): Terac two 7, lost 61 Dt Keiho
(wyo) 69-5; Kotonazusna (7-6) bt Weisanojo 696; Kotonazusna (7-6) bt Weisanojo 696; Kotonazusna (7-6) bt Mesanosio 69-6;
6-6) bt Asimosio 69-6; Gojon 69-5 Dt Adroshu
(4-6); Genyo 69-5 Dt Adroshu
(4-6); Genyo 69-5 Dt Adroshu
(4-6); Brignou 69-6 Dt Notation (7-6) bt Menouni
69-5 bt Highonouni 59-6 Dt Ternekasuga 69-8).
Kotonovalia 16-7 Dt Tochinomati 67-7; Alexanorisma 14-9 Dt Asimosius (3-10); Tekatorid
(4-9) bt Hemsondhima 5-8), Kotonovalia (6-7).
Velicandriana (9-4) bt Stilledhima (6-7), Takanoniana (9-4) bt Minatohiga (6-7); Tekatonomia (9-4) bt Minatohiga (6-7); Majasahimanu (11-2) bt Alexanorisma (8-8) bt Minatohiga (6-7); Majasahimanu (11-2) bt Alexanorisma (8-5).

Tennis AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Melbourne) Men's singles, third round: P KOTDA (Cz Rep) bt V Species (USI 6-2 7-6 6-2: B Black (Zm) bt S Campbell (US) 6-4 8-0 6-2; C Proline (Fr) bt A CORRECUA (Sp) 6-2 8-1 6-4; K Kursera (Slovak) bil D Neistr (Can) 6-2 7-6 6-1; H Arazi (Mor) bt F Clever (Sp) 4-6 6-4 3-6 9-2 6-1; P SAM-PRAS (US) bit M Gastalsson (Sven) 7-5 6-3 6-4; J BJORMAN (Swen) bt F Sembro (Fr) 7-9 6-3 6-4, R Fromberg (Aus) bt S Lareita (Can) 6-0 6-2 4-6 6-3.

62 4-6 6-3.

Women's eingles, third resund: S TESTUD (Fr) by A Gend (Cz Repi 6-4 6-2 L DA/ENPORT (US) by F Perfetti (N) 6-2 6-2; R DA/ACOMP (Rom) by F Labat (Ang) 6-2 7-5; V Williams (US) by A Mauresmo (Fr) 6-6 4-7; Timesusgem (Thu) by I MAJCU (Cong) 6-0 6-2; P Schryder (Swirt) by L RAYMOND (US) 2-6 6-3 6-5; B Schett (Ann) by N Zvereva (Bela) 6-5 1; C MARTINEZ (Spi by A G Sidox (Fr) 3-6 6-6 6-3.

Mayrix doubles, secretary resunds D (Child Cong)

bt A-G Sidot (Fi) 3-6 6-0 6-3.
Men's doubles, second round: D JOHNSON and F MONTANA (US) bt S Dosadel (TC: Rep) and L Pinek (Bet) 6-4 6-4: D MacPherson (Aus) and D Wheath (Bet) 6-3 6-4: L LOBO (Ang) and J SANCHEZ (Sp) bt T Kempers and M Oosting (Neth) 3-6 6-3 16-16: E PERRERA (SA) and R LEACH (LOS) bt G Kuserter (Pd) and M Sel (US) 6-3 6-4. M BHUPNTH and L PAES (Ind) bt W Arthurs and A Kratzmann (Aus) 6-2 6-3; T WOODBFDGE and M WOODFORDE (Aus) bt G Doyle and T Landram (Aus) 6-4 6-7.

G Doyle and T Larisham (Aus) 6-4 6-2
Women's doublies, second round: E
LIGHOVTSEVA (Rus) and A SLIGNAMA Alexant
tr C Cristas (Rem) and A Wunderlich (US) 82 7-5-1 A COETZER (SA) and A HABER (Ger)
bit K Kunce (Aus) and C Morania (US) 8-1 6-3;
M Henga (Salt) and M Lucio (Grai) bit A
KOURNIAONA (Rus) and L MELAND (Luci) 7-5
8-2; Y BASUK (Indon) and C VIS (Nearl) bit B
Ritmer and E Wegner (Ger) 6-2 6-4. S AP.
PLEMANS (Be) and M OFEMANS (Neit) bit J
Lee (Tail) and L Lee (US) 6-3 1-6 6-3; S
Inventiona (Bul) and E Tatandow (Ruf) bit M
Musgrare (Aus) and J Palin (GB) 7-8 6-4
Mistand doubles, first round: A Forent (Aus) Musigrave (Auc.) and J Plum (39) 74 6-4 s) Mixed doubles, first round: A Forem (Aus.) and N Zvereve (Belé) bit L Hewitt (Aus.) and S Williams (US) 7-6 6-2; D Johnson (US) and N Booger (North bir P Nyborg (Swel) and H Vistorie (Cz Rep) 6-3 6-3, K Nimeer (US) and N Mydg (Japani) bit J Engle and R Subbs (Aus.) 1-6-5 7-8; C SJK and H SUROWA (Cz Rep) bit J Waite and M McGrath (US) 5-7-6-3 6-4.

Seede in capitale

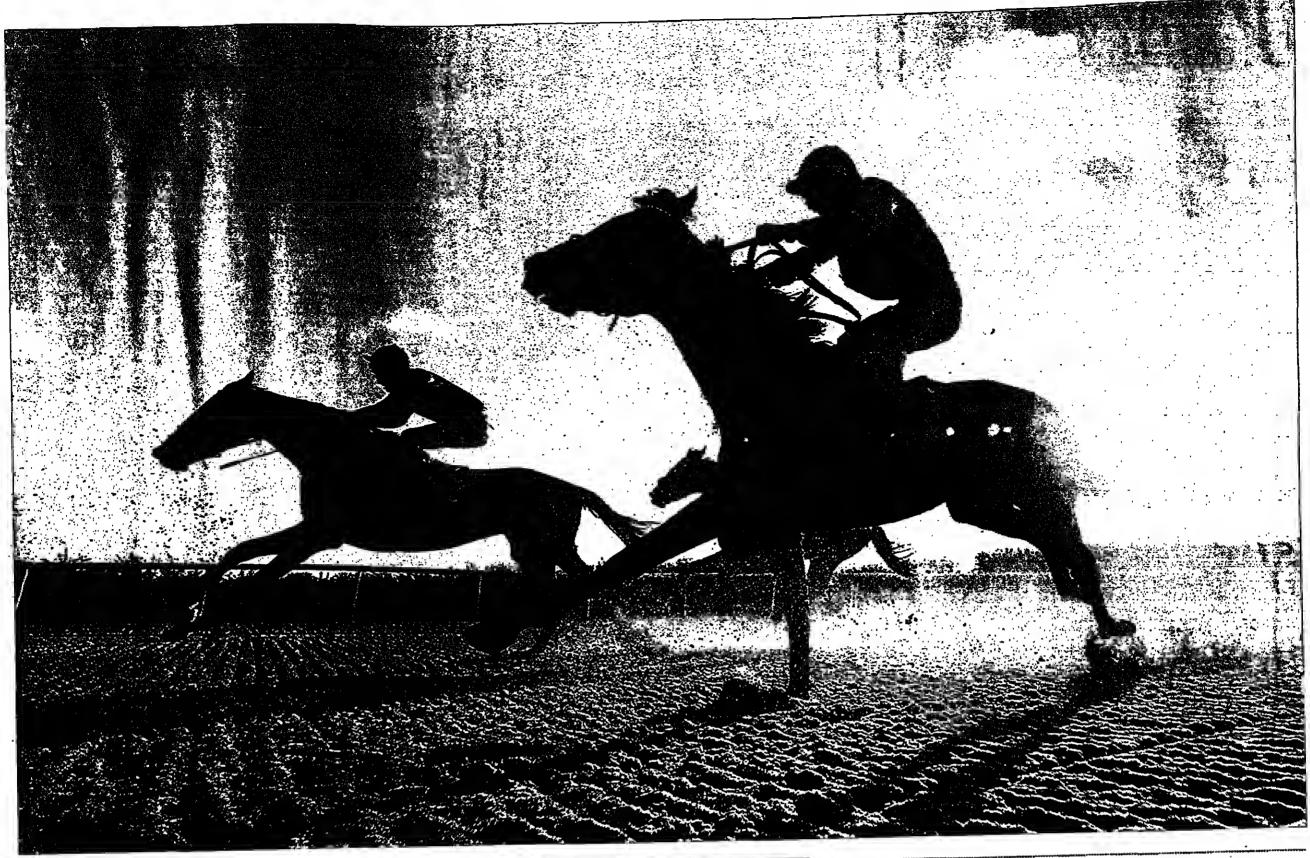
(Avon) 6-1 7-5; R Mattheson (Soo) bt N Watte (Witchine) 6-3 8-1; A Foster (Statis) bt N Weat (Harma) 7-5 6-1; P Hand (Berkethre) bt G Arbert (Karma) 7-5 6-1; P Hand (Berkethre) bt G Arbert (Karma) 6-7 6-1 - Semi-finnish: Mateson bt Gould 6-1 6-4; Hand bt Foster 6-4 4-6 9-1 Women's quarter-finnish: J Lutrova (Pue) bt K Hiscott (Avon) 6-1 6-1; K Warme-Holland (Dorsen) bt J Damson (Sussed) 6-1 6-4; H Crook (Essed) bt J Damson (Sussed) 6-1 6-2; L Perkris (Durham and Cleveland) bt S Van Gend (Neth) 6-6-1 Semi-finnish: Lutrova bt Warme-Holland 6-2 6-4; Perkris bt Crook 7-5 6-4. TERN TERNIS (Felford) Finnish: Boys' singles: M Smith (GB) bt F Dancevic (Carn) 9-3-3-6-6-2 Ocubles: S Demokins and V Portion) (Has) bt M Smith and N Crawloy (GB) wio. Girter' singles: G Fokura (Flus) bt A Zerkabove (Flus) 6-3-3-6-4-4 Doubles: M Mortes and K Remmo (Carn) bt A βarnes and A Hawkins (GB) 6-2-6-4

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of operations - 11 on his left knee alone - undergone by Mark "Stinky" Schlereth since he took up American football. The 32-year-old, who will start tomorrow's Super Bowl at guard for the Denver Broncos, says: "I guess I'm nine parts idiot and one part stupid."



# 18/PHOTOSHOOT





# Racing weathers winter's chill

It's just a dirt track to some but pay dirt for many. The artificial surface at Lingfield racecourse is not regarded with any affection by those who cherish the traditions of racing on turf but it provides an essential form of income for the less-celebrated trainers and jockeys who operate on the winter, all-weather circuit. Importantly, too, it ensures that for punters in betting shops across the country there is no danger that their cash will rest uncomfortably in their pockets when the weather bites at racing on turf. Several times this winter the all-weather circuits of Lingfield, Sonthwell and Wolverhampton have had the stage to themselves and one of Lingfield's meetings this month managed to make its way on to Channel 4 television. While crowds are often sparse there are other cash incentives for staging all-weather racing and the latest course to make plans for such a track is Newcastle.

— john Cobb



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID ASHDOWN





Copies of these photographs – and any others by the *Independent's* sports photographers David Ashdown, Peter Jay and Robert Hallam – can be ordered by telephoning 0171-293 2534.



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Fig. 1

المعلقا من الاجل

# Sportsmen from across the board spend a week in the land of make-believe



CATHERINE RILEY

SPORT ON TV

While John Inverdale may joing the action at 6-6 in the fi-have started the second day of all set "amid all the tension". coverage of the Australian Open (BBC2) with the words: Every major tennis championship wants a real roller-coaster five-setter early on to give the whole thing a lift", what the BBC did not want was its gold-en boy. Tim Henman, being taken for a ride.

Inverdale, less happy in front of the camera than behind a microphone, was affecting a strange slant to the right, perhaps in an attempt to distance himself from the screen in the background showing footage of the offending tennis player.

In what appeared to be a fit of pique directed at Henman's inability to win and thus keep up the viewing figures, the Bech glossed over the first four sets,

Tension? With only half an hour of highlights each afternoon from the first Grand Slam event of the season, engendering tension is something the BBC will have to work a little harder on.

With our hrave Brit soon 6-7 down to a qualifier, Chris Bailey said authoritatively: "The thing for Henman to do now is settle back and relax." Difficult at the best of times, and especially so when you are receiving balls, as Bailey expounded, "in the hitting zone". What he failed to explain was why Henman was missing them.

The rear-view shots of Henman were disconcerting, his dark hair merging into the thick black stripe down the back of his Adidas-sponsored

shirt. A skunk, perhaps, but without an obvious weapon of attack. Adidas may well now reconsider their sponsorship plans, given the amount of exposure they got from Henman compared to the world-wide coverage of Temur Ketsbaia's wild celebrations

last weekend at St James' Park. Shell-shocked and wideeyed in the studio afterwards, Henman shifted uncomfortably in his chair, perhaps fearing the next question would ask if the stripe down his back was perhaps turning yellow.

Inverdale, a hunched model of sympathy, smirked: "Tim, as they say in the trade, very very down on himself."

Britain's other hope, Greg Rusedski, on the other hand, was gramme, but only to record his

viewed with a Union Jack backdrop, rather than the Australian Open logo Henman endured. The message was hard to miss. He won, therefore he's a real Brit. The following day, in a last-

minute addition to the schedule, "a bonus for all termis fans", the smiling boy appeared on a programme devoted exclusively to his match with Jonathan Stark. Another victory and an extended, worshipful interview with Barry Davies, again in front of that backdrop which this time had his name superimposed across it. Goodness knows how Wright (ITV).

the BBC will top that, should he carry on winning. How quickly we forget. Henman was reduced to a quick mention at the end of the provictorious and so was inter- defeat in the doubles. We can

He'll have to reassess what he's doing in this game" to heart.

However, he could follow the example of Ian Wright, who is being given the chance to move seamlessly from darling of the North Bank to luvvie of the South Bank. Following an impressive display as a guest on Clive Anderson's show, LWT are letting the Arsenal striker display his own prowess with the mouth in Friday Night's All

If the pilot is well-received, Wrighty is reportedly to be commissioned for an entire series, although, if he is to go head to bead with Michael Parkinson, the guest list will have to be a little weightier than Lionel

only hope be does not take Chris up of, say, Peter Schmeichel, Bailey's harsh comment of referee David "Little Hitler" Elleray and Leicester's Steve Walsh should ensure humper viewing figures and a programme to rank alongside such memorable chat-show moments as Russell Harty's hand-

> Parky's pas de deux with Emu. A less radical career move being made by Mike Tyson. Kicking his heels while he serves a ban for ear-hiting, the former world heavyweight champion is opting not for rugby union, but wrestling.
> On the World Wrestling

bagging by Grace Jones and

Federation's Raw programme (Sky) Tyson - originally hilled as a guest referee for an event in March - accepted a challenge from "Stone Cold" Steve Richie and All Saints. A line- Austin to participate more actively. Tyson accepted Mr Austin's offer with an immense lung-puncturing push to the chest that completely flattened the wrestler.

What the WWF appears crucially - not to have told Tyson is that it's not real. More ignoble artifice than noble art, in fact. The wrestler's name isn't the way you're supposed to leave him. Pity the man who is given the task of training Tyson for his debut. How do you tell someone who is used to going in for the kill that he only has to pretend to hurt his opponent. that he has to put on an act for the crowd? That be can threaten, but not deliver the telling blow. Who could show Tyson how to overcome an all-consuming desire to win? Somebody send for Henman...

# Chapman in a green and pleasant land

Dominic Chapman, the 20-try Richmond wing, is suddenly the most wanted threequarter in British and Irish rugby. Chris Hewett reports on another surprise promotion for the 21-year-old finisher - his second in the space of a week.

The luck of the Irish? Don't you believe it. No sooner had Brian Ashton, the national coach, hatched a cunning plan to beef line by luring Dominic Chapman to the green but impoverished pastures of Lansdowne Road than Clive Woodward, his opposite number at well-to-do Twickenham, threw a king-sized spanner in the works.

Woodward yesterday took a fleeting opportunity to coax the Nations squad session at Bisham Abbey on Wednesday. No one could accuse the England coach of failing to think on his feet; the absence of the six-man Bath contingent from next week's get-together - the West Countrymen have been released to prepare for their Heineken Cup final with Brive - created half a dozen spare places among the international élite. Woodward has chosen to

fill those gaps with in-form outsiders, of wbom Chapman is undoubtedly the hottest. The other newcomers include Chris Gloucester full-back, and Dorían West, Leicester's secondstring hooker, while the three of Wasps. Phd Greening of Gloucester and Stuart Potter of Leicester - have all been involved at Test squad level at some stage over the past three years or so.

Aware of Chapman's emeraid ancestry - born in Kingstonupon-Thames, the former Harlequin's paternal grandparents came from southern Ireland - Ashton made overtures to the player after watching him skin London Irish alive in last weekend's Premiership fixture np his skeletal threequarter at Sunbury. However, Woodward appears to have won the day. Senior figures at Richmond were confident yesterday that their colleague would make his intentions clear by pitching up at Bisham rather than in Dublia next week.

One way or another. Richmond's Tetley's Bitter Cup fifth-Richmond wing away from Ire-round tie at Bath this afternoon land by naming him in his will be of immense interest to 30-man squad for the pre-Five the England selectors. Neither Andy Robinson, the Bath coach, nor John Kingston, his Richmond counterpart, were planning to name their sides until the last possible moment - another surefire indication that the backroom tacticians are suffering from delusions of Alex Ferguson-style grandeur but with both Chapman and a certain Jeremy Guscott virtually certain to take the field, the match is pregnant with sig-

Bath, the self-styled knockout kings of England but up against the eight ball for the sec-Catling, the fast-maturing ond successive season, will be

hugely motivated after the fortnight they have just endured. With Kevin Yates still susremaining call-ups - Alex King pended over the Simon Fenn ear-biting scandal and the annual report showing a trading loss of £1.5m for the past financial year, the Recreation Ground will remain a humourfree zone unless and until the players get a decent win under

their belts. We've been in the news for all the wrong reasons recently, so we have to concentrate on beating Richmond and allowing the good parts of Bath rugby to be talked about again," said Guscon, who will be playing his first game since breaking an arm during the third and final Lions Test in South Africa six months ago. "From a personal point of view. I have to be positive about this tie. Playing in front of the Bath supporters against a multi-talented team like Richmond is as good a return as 1 could hope for."

Saracens' chances of reversing last month's narrow home defeat by Leicester, their only Premiership loss of the season, were boosted by Richard Hill's successful second-team run-out at Richmond last Wednesday. The England loose forward resumes his potent back-row partnership with Tony Diprose and François Pienaar in what is certain to be a high-class tie, featuring as it does rival World Cup-winning outside-halves in Michael Lynagh and Joel Stransky. "Joel is right up there with

Hugo Porta and Mark Ella as one of the top three stand-offs bave encountered in my career," said the ever-charitable Lynagh yesterday. It was Stransky's last-ditch drop goal that earned the Tigers their 22-21 Christmas victory at Vicarage Road and Leicester's cup experience and natural resilience. allied to big wins over Coventry and Wasps in the past formight, suggest another hard-

earned victory on the road.

Lawrence Dallaglio, the Wasps and England captain, sits out tomorrow's tie with Fylde at Loftus Road as a precaution against aggravating his hruised shoulder. Just for once, his majestic presence is unlikely to be missed: the Londoners have Nick Greenstock, their international centre, back in midfield and Andy Gomarsall, the former Test scrum-half, on the bench following back surgery. Besides, Fylde are marooned at the foot of Premiership Two and in no ob-

vious shape to plot an upset. VIOUS Shape to piot all Upset.

BIGLAND (Training squad, Bisham Abboy, 28 Jenuary): Backs: M Perry (Bain): It Rees (Sale): A Healey (Leicesser): J Guscott (Bath): W Greenwood (Leicastra): P De Glamville (Bath): M Catt (Bath): P Grayson (Northampton): K Bracken (Sancers): M Demand: I Northampton): Forwards: J Leonard (Hareomet K 1988; (Bath): Forwards: J Leonard (Hareomet K 1988; (Bath): G Romne (Leicaster): I Garforth (Leicaster): R Cockerfil (Leicaster): M Regen (Bath): M Johnson (Leicaster): G Archer (Newcastle): I Grewcock (Sancers): L Dallagilo (Waspol: To-office Northampton): R Hill (Sancers)



Scott Quinnell: 'Of course, I'm committed to Wales. I'm no different to any other Welshman when it comes to the red shirt'

### Tondu swap bread for jam

Gordon Pritchard believes today's Swalec Cup fifth-round tie against Premier Division Swansea will provide his Tondu players with an "eojoyable range" from the rigours of the League programme. The League is our bread

and butter and promotion could benefit this club by between £80,000 and £90,000," said coach Pritchard, wbo has guided Tondu to second place in the Second Division. "I would swap a victory over

Swansea for League wins over Whitland and Tredegar although, obviously, this match will be a highlight for our players and supporters. It will be an enjoyable change." Swansea bave named a strong side, including the Wales

outside half Arwel Thomas, al-

though Scott Gibbs has not fully recovered from a knee injury and sits out the match. Pontypridd, the only Premier Division club to be drawn at home, will face a Treorchy side

containing six of their former

The fly-half Gavin Jones, prop Mark Powell and the flanker Gavin Owen were all Pontypridd regulars, while the prop Kevin Matthews and backrow men Scott Eggar and Barry Jones have also turned out for the Sardis Road club. Andrew Lewis, in line for a

place in the Wales team who face Italy on 7 February, continues his recovery from injury in the Cardiff side at Newbridge. whose lock, Paul Kawulok, has a particular reason to be relishing the encounter.

Kawulok was a member of the Cardiff team who suffered a humiliating Cup defeat hy St Peter's on their own Arms Park pitch five years ago.

"Losing to St Peter's was one of the worst experiences of my career." Kawulok, the Newbridge captain, said. "It would be nice to play a part in another Cup upset - this time on the winning side.

#### sider the Scott Quinnell Interview to be something very similar and it is undeniably true that the famously taciturn

Depending on your point

of view, Scott Quinnell is

either the most gifted

forward in British rugby

or a one-man awkward

squad far more trouble

prepared to mix it with

Bath in this afternoon's

big Tetley's Bitter Cup

tracked down an elusive

talent and found him full

A great French film director

once aimed a sardonic sneer in

the direction of his contempo-

raries across the Channel by dis-

missing the expression "British

movie" as a contradiction in

terms. There are those who con-

Welshman would much rather

play a good game than talk one.

When groin problems forced

him to ahandon last summer's

Lions tour of South Africa, he

was on the plane home before

"The hardest decision of my

tie at the Recreation

Ground, Chris Hewett

of positive intent.

than he is worth.

As Richmond

"We have said we have to win

to set up our season but we have to put it into context." he said. were in a similar predicament, having drawn with Western Samou after the World Cup, and things weren't looking quite so ceptionally good Five Nations." notebook before him and look- course, I'm committed to the Richmond Athletic Ground. If we're not careful, we'll lose ing about as comfortable as a shark in a sand dunc. "It was a while, hut I felt fit and strong enough when we first flew down to Jo'burg. I just happened to appravate it in the game against Northern Transvaal and I knew it would take increasingly long periods of treatment to get me ready for matches. In the end, I felt I wouldn't do justice to myself or the squad by sticking arnund."

So Quinnell, a stone-cold certainty for the Test No 8 spot, became the Lion Who Never Was. His critics back home in the vallevs call him something else: the Welshman Who Never Was, If they go misty-eyed at the more grapevine before he started mention of his rugby ancestry his father Derek was a threetour Lion while his uncle, Barry John, remains a 24-carat legend - they soon purse their lips at Scotty's unspeakable defection to rugby league, his rest of Europe with some thun- and if you look at what is hapequally beinous decision to return to 15-man business with a swanky London outfit like Richmond rather than his Llanelli nursery, his much-publicised contractual squabble with the Welsh Rugby Union.

All of which hurs, though Quinnell is too self-contained a character to show it. What he does display, repeatedly, is a genuine enthusiasm for international rugby, a relish that is about to manifest itself in the annual huthouse of the Five Nahouse, staring suspiciously at the tions' Championship, "Of

Wales," he says. "I don't play for anyone unless I'm committed. double hernia, as it turned out. I'm not the sort to turn up out I'd heen struggling with it for a of hahit or because there's nothing berter to do. Apart from injury, nothing has kept me out of a Welsh squad since Christmas '96. I'm in the present souad and I badly want to play in what I believe has the makings of a very strong team. I'm no different to any other Welshman when it comes to the red shirt. No different at all."

Quinnell big enough to take the knocks

It is startling to think that Ouinnell, 25 last August, has yet to reach the midway point of his career. His name, made famous by the family flesb and blood that went before him, was being bandied around the west Wales shaving and he climbed the rungs of the representative ladder as to the manner born. He made his Test dehut against Canada in 1993 as a blind-side flanker before lording it over the derous displays at No 8 as Wales won the 1994 Five Nations. He had the world at his

feet. Unfortunately for an adoring Welsh public, that world was an amateur one. Rugby's hig hucks were then confined to league and when Quinnell signed for Wigan, the sound of a thousand camera sburters snapping in unison was drowned out by the wailing and gnashing of teeth back home. When the bucks transferred themselves to southwest London, he resurfaced at Does that make him a rueby mercenary, a bounty-hunting slave to his own bank account?

"It's a professional game and players make the best living they can," be says with unarguable logic. "I felt it was berter for me and my rugby to get out of Wales, even though it's my home and there is nothing I enjoy more than going back over the bridge and spending time with the boys in the squad. To be bonest with you, I found London difficult to come to terms with at first, but the simple fact is that there is now a huge difference between the club games in the two

countries. "In Wales you can still rest players and beat the weaker sides by 50 points. You simply cannot do that in the English Premiership, where the weekin, week-out matches are so much harder. There is no such thing as an easy 80 minutes here pening at Richmond, it's mak-

ing bener players of us all. "I do worry, though, about the club game back home. You can't stop people making their livelihoods and you might argue that the English-based players will strengthen the Welsh international side by bringing in new ideas. But if all the top players head for England ~ and if Neil Jenkins decides to join Bath, for instance, a lot of the big names could well follow him over the bridge - it will do nothing for the game domestically.

the most important thing, the fan base. If the crowds start turning to other things, we're

"It's a problem for the Welsh Rugby Union to sort out. I'm contracted to Richmond until 2002 and, as we speak, I can't see myself playing club rughy for a Welsh team again. But something has to be done to give the players who are there some real opportunities."

Richmond has been good for Quinnell and judging by the way be is performing at present, the benefits are mutual. The Londoners started their Premiership campaign with a limited bishbosb game plan depressingly reminiscent of league and the wisecrackers wondered whether it had been worth Quinnell's while leaving Wigan, but Ben Clarke's expensively recruited outfit have added a harp-full of strings to their bow and are now playing with pace and style.

There's bags of potential here and when we learn to win games while playing helow our capacity, we'll be right up there with the big boys." Quinnell says. Talking of which, his outsized brother, Craig, is also cutting mustard by the jar-load at the Athletic Ground these days. "He's bloody huge, isn't he?" Scott laughs. "I'm glad he's on my side." And you realise that if both exiled siblings are going to wrap themselves in the Weish flag over the next couple of months, it will have to be a

# Wainwright welcomes chance of redemption

Rob Wainwright recalls less than fondly Scotland's previous venture on Italian soil, a miserable defeat that the Lions flanker is anxious not to see repeated in Deviso today.

The Scottish captain's resolve will be toughened further by the ospect of a Five Nations openin Ireland in a fortnight's time. lecent record defeats to rance, Australia and South Airica raise the stakes higher still. Two years ago, Scotland

sent a near full-strength side to Rief for what was nominally an A match against Italy, and suffered a 26-17 defeat. "At that time, I think Scot-

land underestimated the Italian threat," Wainwright said, "and possibly didn't play with the commitment that was required. The difference this year is that Italy have got a better record than we have. We are under a lot of pressure, having had a difficult start to the season."

As far as Wainwright is concerned, however, losing would not necessarily be the disaster that some pundits are predicting.

the Woodwards and Bernsteins "If we go back two years ago we of the rugby press realised he was injured. life, that was," he says now, sitting bolt upright in the empty good. We went on to have an ex- har of the Richmond club-

The Jamaican national team are discovering the hard way that football is not always a big party. They have been on tour in Brazil to prepare for both the Concacaf Gold Cup next month and for the World Cup, and they have suffered some heavy defeats to club sides.

A 4-0 thrashing by Corinthi-

ans and then a 3-0 defeat by Romario's Flamengo has left Jamaica's Brazilian-born coach. Rene Simoes, in no doubt as to the tough challenges that lie ahead. However, he said: "We're not worried about winning or losing. Any score is fine as long as we learn from it.

"Jamaica is not going to go into crisis because it loses. Jamaica loses and we simply reflect on the game. That is an

None of Jamaica's Englishborn players are with them in Brazil. The four who played in the World Cup qualifiers plus one newcomer. Chelsea's Frank Sinclair, should arrive in time for the Gold Cup in Florida.

Wimbledon's Marcus Gayle ought to be joining Sinclair - but he is being thwarted by his club, who want him to make himself available only for England, and not Jamaica.

eration has written a "strong" letter of protest to Wimbledon and has also written to the Football Association and Fifa, world football's governing body, which is expected to rule on the matter

The English imports - when their clubs release them - will be crucial to his team's prospects, hut Simoes is still proud of his home-grown men. The midfielder Theodore Whitmore and the defender Ricardo



### **FOOTBALL AROUND** THE WORLD BY RUPERT **METCALF**

Gardner drew particular praise. "They play with a very dent with the ball, calm and looking for space." Simoes said. "As for the heavies, no one plays hard in Jamaica. I'll have to look to the players from Eugland for that!"

#### Guatemala

A stadium where 80 people were killed 15 months ago was the venue for a riot this week.

A scuffle between two play-The Jamaican Football Feders at a club game on Wednesday sparked a major hreach of the peace between the teams and their fans, leaving 72 people injured and several cars wrecked at the Guatemala City's Mateo Flores stadium - which was the scene of a stampede (due to over-selling) that left 80 dead and more than 200 seriously injured in October 1996.

Martin Macho of Comunicaciones and German Ruaño of Croatia punches on the pitch soon af- drawn in the same group as Yu- Yugoslavia and the 1991 war.



Set-piece: The new set of French postage stamps issued this week to commemorate the World Cup finals. Every venue is featured, including (centre) the new Stade de France, which hosts its first match on Wednesday

ter the game ended with a 3-0 victory for Comunicaciones. Other players, coaches and fans quickly joined in, spreading the free-for-all to the stands, dressing rooms, and ultimately the car park. It took 300 police officers and volleys of tear gas tu quell the riot.

Municipal started trading On the day that Croatia were since the break-up of former

goslavia in the qualifiers for the next European Champiunship, news broke of an unprecedented football deal in the politically troubled Balkans.

Damir Stojak, the top scorer for the Yugoslav club Vojvodina Novi Sad, could soon be moving to Croatia Zagreb. Such a transfer would be the first between the two hostile countries 137 days... and counting until the World Cup finals begin in France The Netherlands have no chance of winning the World

The Netherlands have no chance of winning the World Cup this year, or any other year – according to the coach of their Bustrious club side, Ajax, Morten Olsen, once an elegant defender for Dermark but now in charge of the Amsterdam team, said this week: "Everyone can play football here but the Netherlands will never be world champions. You don't have the right mindset. You have the players but what you really need is that over my dead body' stitlude. If the Dutch want to be world champions, they have to play seven excellent games. During a world championship that is impossible. There is always one match where you can't save yourself with beautiful football." Olsen said the over-emphasis on attack in Dutch domestic football was partly to blama.

— Rupert Metcalf

### QUOTES OF THE WEEK

 There's no point getting uptight and I won't lose any sleep over the result. Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson after another defeat by Southampton.

 He was an absolute joke, an absolute disgrace. Gordon Strachan. Coventry manager, on the performance of referee Stephen Lodge in the match against Arsenal.

 John Hartson came over and got involved because he knows i can't fight. West Ham manager Harry Redknapp on the touchline scuffle that followed Samassi Abou's dismissal against Tottenham. We are at a disadvantage in this group geographically hecause we seem to be playing in the former Yugoslavia national championship, freland man-

ager Mick McCarthy after the Republic are drawn with Croatia, Yugoslavia and Macedonia in a qualifying group for Euro 2000. I keep on telling myself how lucky I am. There must be a lot of people in the Chelmstord 'Nick' who would have loved to have been on the Côte d'Azur. Tony Adams, the Arsenal defender, on his rehabili-

tation from injury. It did not matter which one won. Brandy Williams, mother of Serena and Venus, the teenage tennis sisters who played each other for the first time at senior level at the Australian Open. Venus won.

 That was my worst performance ever and if I am going to be any good at this game there is no way I can let myself play like that. Tim Henman after losing to the Frenchman Jerome Golmard at the same event.

 You've just cost me two shots. I might have known. You ought to apologise. That's the least you can do. Nick Faldo takes his frustrations out on two pressmen whom he believes distracted him at the Johnnie Walker Classic.

# Sinclair is poised for move to West Ham

Redkhapp, is confident he will complete the signing of the Queen's Park Rangers forward Trevor Sinclair on Monday.

The deal for the former England Under-21 man will probably be made up of cash plus players, but it not clear who will be heading for Loftus Road in exchange, Iam Dowie, Ian Bishop, Tim Breacker and Keith Rowland are thought to he among the candidates.

Redknapp has been chasing Sinclair since before Christmas, and sees him as a key part of his rebuilding programme. "A deal has been agreed but we are still working out which players will go in the other direction," he said. Daniele Dichio, the former

Queen's Park Rangers striker who joined Sampdoria under the Bosman ruling last summer, is

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP

striving for an shock result this

weekend. North of the border,

Annan Athletic and Edinburgh

City are both engaged in Ten-

nents Scottish Cup third-round

Of the teams outside the

jority have come from the chances.

Scottish League who have

Highland League, But now

League are beginning to make

Annan set off yesterday for

progress and dream of glory.

a six-hour coach trip to

Aviemore to prepare for their

meeting with Inverness Cale-

donian Thistle. Edinburgh City,

who tackle Premier Division

Dunfermline, hope a trip over

the Forth Bridge will secure

their passage to the fourth

round. Both clubs will collect

£6.500 for getting this far - and

Annan say they will split the

be looking to the striking part-

nership of Norman Mont-

gomerie and Euan Brydson to

find the net against Inverness.

The Dumfriesshire side will

money with their players.

action today.

who had a £2m hid for Dichio turned down last year. The 23year-old is expected to complete the £750,000 move early next week, ending his disappointing stint in Italy's Serie A.

Ron Atkinson is hoping to persuade Andy Griffin, the 18year-old Stoke left-back, to join Sheffield Wednesday, rather than Newcastle or Leicester. The Wednesday manager expects to he given permission to talk to Griffin over the weekend if Wednesday confirm they are matching the £1.3m valuation.

Chris Kamara, Stoke's new manager, hopes to sign Celtic's Scotland left-back, Scott McKinlay, on loan for the rest of the season as a replacement for Griffin.

Russell Osman, the 38-yearhas been sacked as the manag-

search of their brief moment of fame

the close season.

only British non-League club from a junior side, Cumnock, in

caused an upset in the compe-selfish, acts as a feed for Nor-

sides from the East of Scotland side and we have prepared re-

the draw."

Stevenage Borough are not the scored 38 goals since moving Newcastle, Belfast and Duhlin,"

Annan's manager, Kevin

Hetherington, who spent nine

years as a player with Quecu of

the South, said: "Norman has

a marvellous scoring record

hut he knows he has a lot to

thank Euan for. He is very un-

tition over recent years, the ma- man and helps creates a lot of the trophy, and that's why there

ally hard for this game. In fact,

the players requested an extra

night's training after we heard

Gordon Rae. said: "It has

players have to take a step

back from the publicity and

think about the game. We do

have to climh Everest, but then

Everest has been climbed before

and, without being over confi-

dent, I feel we have to go to

Dunfermline helieving we can

make the short journey south to

take on Stranraer at Stair Park.

The holders, Kilmarnock.

produce a result."

Montgomerie, a 31-year-old of requests for lickets from Morton at Parkhead.

process worker at IC1, has places as distant as Manchester,

Edinhurgh City's manager,

reached the stage now when the the league: five defeats and five

"We are basically a young

the cluh's FA Cup fourth-round tie against Reading, Osman, who had been criticised by some fans in recent weeks because of form, was told at the end of a near four-bour hoard meeting. Kenny Hihbitt, the club's director of football, takes over the manager's role.

Crystal Palace are giving a trial to a former Milan player. Patrizio Billio, who hopes to link up at Selhurst Park with his fellow Italians, Attilio Lombardo and Michele Padovano.

One of Chelsea's Italians. Gianfranco Zola, has been left out of Italy's squad for next week's World Cup warm-up game against Slovakia at Cata-

nia. Also missing is the Inold former England defender, ternazionale goalkeeper, Gianluca Pagliuca.

Strangaer's manager, Camp-

bell Money, said. "It's an at-

tractive match because this club

has never entertained the Scot-

Kilmarnock's manager, Bob-

by Williamson, said: "I just

wish we were going into the

third round every year as Cup

holders. We want to hang on to

won't be any complacency from

glers, Dumharton, will have to

show improved form at Bog-

head if they are to progress at

the expense of Premier Division

Motherwell. Ian Wallace's side

have the worst home record in

Heart of Midlothian, who

meet Clyde at Tynecastle Park,

will be without their French

goalkeeper, Gilles Rousset, be-

cause of flu, so they must

choose between his deputies,

Roddy McKenzie and Myles

ton in a tie which has been

switched to Motherwell's Fir

Rangers are away to Hamil-

The Third Division strug-

my players tomorrow."

draws in 10 games.

Hogarth.

tish Cup holders before."

West Ham's manager, Harry poised to sign for Sunderland, or of Cardiff City on the eve of Zola's recent performances The 32-year-old former Chelsea for Italy have not impressed the and Rangers player, who has coach. Cesare Maldini, who has recalled the young Parma goulkeeper, Gianluigi Buffon, as Cardiff's disappointing League the understudy to the experienced Angelo Peruzzi, of Juventus. With Peruzzi absent. Buffon substituted for the injured Pagliuca during the away leg of Italy's World Cup playuff against Russia in Moscow last October and performed well in the 1-1 draw. Zola did

> not play in either play-off game. Richard Sneekes, West Bromwich Albion's Dutch midfielder, has signed a new threeand-a-half year contract with the Midlands club.

Robert Fleck, the former Scotland striker, is on his way out of Norwich City after being told that his contract will not be re- cording to reports in Denmark. newed at the end of the season.

scored 84 goals in 292 appearances during two spells with the Canaries, has been told he can leave as the First Division club needs to cut the wage hill. Venables has virtually ruled out guiding Australia to the

2002 World Cup. Speaking from London, the former England manager said his future with the Socceroos was uncertain, but it seems increasingly unlikely he will continue after next month's World Series tournament against South Korea, Chile and Japan.

Michael Laudrup will leave the Dutch cluh Ajax in summer to play his final season with FC Copenhagen and will replaced at Ajax by his younger hrother. the Rangers striker Brian, ac-- Mark Burton

### NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

### Annan Athletic and Edinburgh City travel in Manor favourite Shotton back in charge at Oxford

Spirits were high among supporters and directors as Oxford United welcomed back a former player, Malcolm Shotton, as their new manager yesterday.

The 40-year-old Shotton was the fans' favourite to succeed Malcolm Crosby, who stepped down earlier in the week after five games in charge. at the First Division club.

Oxford have agreed nominal compensation with Barnsley, where Shotton was the reserve team manager. He officially takes over after today's home game against Portsmouth, but he is likely to be introduced to the crowd before the match.

The former centre-hack captained Oxford during their beady years in the mid-1980s, leading the team to successive tend their lead at the top of the championships and then the Milk Cup in 1986.

He has been appointed to fit into a management team which also includes Maurice Evans, who was his manager when he was a player at the Manor, and Crosby, who is staying on as first transfer "bungs" at the club team coach.

"Malcolm is a winner and his "We've had an amazing number Parm, while Celtic entertain Oxford's managing director, ers get dragged into it, either," -Ken Gount qualities and that decisiveness centrate on the job in hand,"

we were looking for. I have no doubts that we have got the right man. He will give the club a lift."

Crosby has selected today's side, dropping the teenage striker Jamie Couk. Either Martin Aldridge or Matt Murphy will play up front alongside Nigel Jemson. The midfielder Martin Gray returns after a one-match suspension, but Christophe Remy and Mike Ford are both injured.

Pompey's caretaker-manager, Keith Waldon, may include the Australian striker John Aloisi, who missed the last two matches with an Achilles injury, and the veteran marksman Steve Claridge, who has ar-

rived on loan from Leicester. Nottingham Forest can ex-First Division by winning at Oueen's Park Rangers today while their main rivals are involved in the FA Cup. Their manager, Dave Bassett, is determind that the adverse publicity regarding charges of

should not distract his players. "I don't want to get involved record shows that," Keith Cox, in this and I won't let the playsaid. "He has proven leadership Bassett said, "We've got to con-

### SIDELINES

### Groves leads the droves to Villa

Loyalty is reputedly a thing of the past, with players who care more for the colour of the money than the shirt happily defecting to their



Huddersfield To

strayed from the

when they appoint their manager, at the manager,

their enterprise.

tale of the state of the state

Peter Jackson 25

prepared for and

Cup fourth-round

724

nearest rivals. Distant dealings between Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion, who today renew a hostilies in the FA Cup, prove it is hardly a modern phenomenon.

Take Willie Groves, who masterminded Albion's 3-0 defeat of Villa in the 1892 final. Two years later, as the first man to be transferred for £100, he helped Villa to the championship. John Reynolds scored in the same final, yet by the time the neighbours contested the trophy again, in 1895, he was in the claret and hine. Albion's goalkeeper in their three consecutive finals from 1886, Bob Roberts, also left

When Villa last lifted the Cup, in 1957, their side included Jimmy Dugdale, a Wembley winner with Albion three years earlier. Those who have switched from Villa Park to the Hawthorns more recently include Tony Morley, John Deehan, Ken McNaught, Nigel Spink, Graham Feuton and Phil King (both on loan), with the cricketer-keeper Jim Cumbes, Steve Hunt and Ugo Ehiogu making the reverse journey.

Villa exploited a contractual loophole to snap up Ehiogu in 1991, when their manager was Rou Atkinson. At the same time Big Rou signed Cyrille Regis, a Black Country folk hero in the first of his two spells in charge of Albion. Today, Regis will be part of West Brom's coaching staff, hursting to get the better of his former club and

Ten things that Walsall's Danish manager Jan Sorensen might be missing today



I The Tycho Brache Planctarium in his home town, Copenhagen. A place, like Old Trafford, where you can occasionally watch hreathtaking natural phe-

2 Kronborg Castle, the setting Shakespeare used for Hamlet.

3 The Viking museum at Danish flag) - the oldest Raskilde, a good place to flag in the world, dating be reminded what a real- from 1219 when legend ly good slaying is like. 4 The Great Belt Exhibition centre. A display of 9 Bacon and pastries. hridge architecture rather

than trouser support.

better today than the mermaid bas recently. 6 The spirit of Hans Christian Andersen. Walsall will certainly be in fairy-tale territory if they win today. 7-Aquavit: Immensely in-

team keep their heads

toxicating potato spirit. 8 The Dannebrog (the

has it fell from sky after a battle in Estonia.

10 Visiting the Carlsberg hrewery - probably the 5 The Little Mermaid. best way to forget a cup Sorensen will hope his drubbing in the world.

# NAME OF THE GAME

Before his team's 1891-92 Lancashire Senior Cup final against Blackburn Rovers, the Bury chairman, J T Ingham, promised: "We shall shake 'em." Ingham's throwaway comment was seized upon by press and supporters alike and it inspired a nickname which has stuck ever since. It inspired the team as well: Bury beat Blackburn to win the final 2-0.





Barnsley have never played

In this week in 1977, Queen's Park Rangers were preparing for their fourth-round FA United at Old Trafford.

The QPR defender, David Webh, said at the time: "We're the Cup kings. And we're not about to let United dethrone us." He added: "Of course we're disappointed that not more than 1,000 of our own sup-

porters will be at the game." It was perbaps good fortune for those who chose not to travel, as QPR lost 1-0.

A point worth noting is that United had progressed Lane. More than 35,000 fans to that tie by defeating a struggling Third Division team in the third round. That team happens to be to- Trevor Aylott (two) and day's opponents, Walsall.

Also worth noting is another event from the same Philip Neville.

Tottenham in the FA Cup hut they can go to White Cup tie against Manchester Hart Lane today encouraged by a famous victory at the same ground in the same competition 17 years ago.

The 1980-81 fourth round draw paired Barnsley with Enfield, who took it to a replay with a last-minute equaliser in front of Oakwell's biggest crowd of the season, more than 24,000.

Such was the interest in the Isthmian League side's exploits that the replay was switched to White Hart saw Enfield hit the woodwork three times, but Barnsley won 3-0 with goals by Ronnie Glavin (who, incidentally, returned to London in the Cup three weeks ago week in 1977 - the birth of as manager of Emley for the tie against West Ham).

### THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

Loans/trials

Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Harris, Paul N Readers contributions wetcome Send to Sidelines, Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Whart, London E14 SDL e-mail address: sport @ independent.co.uk

Jungle alert

for missing Kommissar

Barry Gaffer, Studgethorpe Brazil's self-styled Football

Kommissar, is missing,

feared dead, in the jungles

club chairman, last night

admitted the club were

"very concerned" about

the fate of their manager.

The 54-year-old Gaffer

has not been in touch

with the club since he

flew to Central America in

an attempt to solve

Brazil's striker crisis by

signing charismatic strik-

Revolta, who plays for

Cicasaparrat Juniors deep

in the area's troubled re-

gioo, is seen as the right

man to replace the former

hard-man Brian Heckin-

bottom, who has gooe soft

since he went AWOL in

the Indian hippy beach

wo referees, three oppo-

neots and four taxi drivers

in his controversial career,

scored his third hat-trick

Revolta, who has shot

resort of Goa.

er Che Revolta.

Sir Hirem Firem, the

of Central America.

News item

# Jackson central to Town redevelopment

**Huddersfield Town** strayed from the norm when they appointed their manager, and so far have been rewarded for their enterprise.

Guy Hodgson talked to Peter Jackson as he prepared for today's FA Cup fourth-round tie against Wimbledon.

It does not take a rocket scientist to work out the commodiry Peter Jackson trades in. Behind the desk in his office at oured to wear this shirt," the dido't enjoy matches and there captioo reads.

It is what Jackson, who installed this motivational tool, believes made him. Commitment, an anxiety to be seen to be working hard, call it what you will it got him to be captain of the club and, subsequently, made him an unusual choice as manager. Wheo the Huddersfield players take the field against Wimbledoo today, the one mistake which will not be tolerated is oot caring.

The usual suspects surfaced as potential replacements for the sacked Brian Horton last October, Joe Royle and Bruce Rìoch amoog them, but Huddersfield resisted their lure and that of fadiog ex-internationals to go for a 36-year-old former player who was seeing out his offee and mints days at Halifar Town looking for a joh. Anything would do as long as it was in football.

If "who?" was the immediate response from outside Yorkshire, then "why?" followed immediately afterwards.

TODAY

1974

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- 3830

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FA Cup fourth round

Chartton y Walves

Leeds v Grinsby

Birmingham v Stockport ....

Manchester Littly Waland ....

o Middlesbrough v Arsenal .....

Port Vale v Crewe .....

Bournemouth v Oldham.

Cartale v Bristol Rovers ...

- Luton v Fulham ...... 14 Plymouth v Wigen ..... 15 Presson v Chesterilos

Crystal Palace v Lelcaster ...

Aston Villa v West Bromwich (LO) .....

Nationwide Football League

- Bradierd City v Swindon ......

ion v Sunderland .....

polotment waiting to happen,

Some calamity. Since Jackson arrived bringing the sages Terry Yorath and Terry Dolan with him, Hudderstield have taking the players out into a stopped being the coconuts of the First Division shy who were rock bottom with no wins and which only two defeats have been suffered have taken them to the relative respectability of 19th place and offered them an opportunity for Cup renowo against Wimhledon.

"If you looked at the league table you couldn't take a bet on the McAlpine Stadium is a us getting relegated." Jackson glass case in which the colours said describing the situation of Huddersfield Town are dis- that greeted him. "The players played. "Be proud and hon- didn't enjoy training, they



**COUNTDOWN** 

was no real learn spirit. We were getting beaten too easily. That's what we've turned

"It's such a famous old shirt. hlue and white stripes, and wheo I was captain I used to look forward to putting it on. That's what I wanted to iostall in the players. What the fans want to see is pride and passion. We won't win every game hut we'll give it a go."

The last sentence could sum up Jackson the player. He was The impressive McAlpine Sta- a whole-hearted defender, the dimm in the hands of someone sort of player whom peers fought hasically, we didn't give who had oever been a manag- looked to for leadership natu- them a game that day. You

MAJOR WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

Darington v Exeter .....
 21 Doncaster v Macclesfield

23 Lincoln City v Notts County ...

GM Vauxhall Conference

32 Leek v Stalybridge......

35 Boreham Wood v Bishop's Storrlord.

36 Chesham v Heybridge ..... 37 Dagenham & Redbridge v Hitchin 38 Dulwich v Purifieet . ....

25 Halfax v Slough .

Ryman League

Premier Division

Aylesbury v Carehatton

41 Oxford City v Bromley ... 42 Sutton United v St Albans ...

Hartlepool v Rotherham .......

er before? Well, it's a disap- rally and who became a pillar beyond the confines of Bradford City after the fire that killed 52 people in May 1985, As captain, he organised hospital visits and fund-raising for the victims,

"I've been asked a 100 times to go through that day just four points. Nine games in hut I don't really like to talk about it, it is too horrendous to describe," he said. "It took years and years to get over, if indeed I have. I still think about it now, the memories are clear as they were the day it happened.

shocked community.

'We thought it hado't affected my younger daughter. Charlotte, who was 18 months old at the time. Then some time later she drew a picture of her dad at work, playing foothall. The staod she drew had flames coming from it. It was on fire.

The club's promotion from the old Third Division that season was an irrelevence in the face of tragedy, but football helped Bradford move on and, in turn, it elevated Jackson, who joined Newcastle United to the First Division the following

It is, he says, the hest trophy he ever won when he was awarded player of the season by supporters ahead of two players who have since passed out of the memory. Oh. go on. you might have beard of them: Paul Gascoigne and Peter Beardsley.

that Jackson came closest to the one." game's highest honours, a fifthround FA Cup tie against today's opponents. "It was the year they won it. 1988, and I honestly feel if we'd beaten them that day we'd have got to the final. We were playing ever so well, it was a full house and maybe the occasion got too much for us. We were out-

UniBond League

45 Blytti Spartens v Runcorti .

47 Choney v Boston Uld . . 48 Colwyn Bay v Leigh RMI . .

Tennents Scottish Cup

Third round

Dumberton v Motherweil

let Fir Park, Mothenwell)

St Johnstone v Particle

TOMORROW

Third round

Queen of the South y States.

FA Cup fourth round

Tennents Scottish Cup

Celtic v Morion



Dynamic duo: Peter Jackson (left) and Terry Yorath have overseen a Huddersfield revival

Photograph: Empics

It was also at St James' Park could say I owe Wimbledon

From Newcastle Jackson returned to Bradford for £300,000 - "a mistake. I'm remembered now for my two bad years at the end rather than the eight good ones in my first spell" - and then was given a free transfer to Huddersfield. Like a house buyer finding the perfect home, something clicked.

"As soon as I came to the old stadium and walked through the ing. "I had all the emotions. I terviews for a job like this, framed,

SPORT ON THE INTERNET

surprised that even the small-

er football clubs have their

own weh sites, but most of

web site. Also, pictures are

a slight reassurance for all

unofficial site.

doors I felt as though it was my club," Jackson said. "I don't know what it was but I thought: "This is for me'. My form picked up and I went from strength to strength. From that day to this I've had a wonderful relationship with the staff,

the fans, everybody." The Huddersfield board remembered that as Horton was oo his way out, and called Jackson for a Sunday morning meet-

Scandinavian Saddlers may miss Walsall's finest hour

Perhaps one should not be those Geordies streaming the Secood Division, Walsall

down from the north-east for

main web sites, the unofficial

Spelling is not the strongest

There are two clubs from

Cardiff City are the only

tomorrow's match.

GM Vauxhall Conference Third Division side left in the

sides have either an official or competition and, of their two

Stevenage Borough, the one is much the better. Yes-

last non-League side left in the terday both of them led with

FA Cup, have a very good site the surprising news that Cardiff

with the usual mix of results. had sadted their manager Rus-

match reports, news. history. sell Osman the day before one

player info and merchandising, of their most important match-

there is the chance to sample managed to spell the now ex-

Boro's FA Cup song via the manager's first name wrong.

promised of their new away suit on the internet hut getting

stand "which is coming on Osman's name wrong does

nicely" and this may come as rather add insult to injury.

For the hraver among you, es for years and the official site

was playing for Halifax against Kettering oo the Saturday and how I got through that game I'll never know because my mind was going, "What questions bled on me." are they going to ask, what am I going to say"?"

He must have come up with some good answers because immediately. "Some ex-internationals or managers with

and Grimsby, both of whom

are playing Premier League

oppositioo. Manchester Unit-

oow have a Danish manager.

but the best ucofficial site is

in Sweden. Why Walsall in par-

ticular should have such a

Scandinavian following beats

mc. What is more under-

standable is that Grimsby have

a Norwegian web site, but

you have to be fluent in Nor-

The Steveoage site puts its

seniors to shame in terms of

club history. I find it hard to

believe that details of Walsall's

defeat of Manchester United

wegian to uoderstand it.

Maybe it is because Walsall

ed and Leeds respectively.

never mind get appointed, so for a persoo who is not really known outside Yorkshire it was fantastic. The club have gam-

So far - with Yorath and Dolan to guide him - so good and a cup run would he an embellishment to a promising start Jackson was appointed almost in management. Hudderfield could have lost their shirts wheo they bet on Jackson, in-20 years experience don't get in- stead they have had ooe

**ADDRESSES** 

Cardiff City official site

Walsall unofficial site

http://www.styrotech.co.uk/ccalc/

Cardiff City unofficial site

http://ds.dial.piper.com/m4moms, ccalc.htm

http://hem2.passagen.se/herjuli/ index.htm

Grimsby Town unofficial site

http://www.gizmocat.demon.co.uk/ gtfc/

Grimsby Town unofficial site (in Norwegian) http://www.marins.unit.no/

in the third round of the Cup

in 1975 does oot get a men-

tion. I'm sure that there are

thousands of Saddlers' fans in

Scaodinavia and elsewhere

- Edward Abelson

praying for a repeat today.



### THE **GAFFER TAPES**

of the season at the week-

It is thought Gaffer, who has been unable to lift Brazil from the bottom of the Premiership since replacing former manager Big Mick Sheepskio in September, was at the match but has oot been sioce since leaving the ground in the boot of a meo with dark glasses and

poochos. Gaffer is known as one of the game's survivors having beeo sacked at every level, but this could be one

gamble too far. lo another development, Heckinbottom aonounced he is to become a candidate for the Natural Law Party in the European elections. Among his more unusual proposals is that goals are to be banned io foothall matches as the coocepts of winning and losing promote ill-feeling

between men. With Broccoli Moore still in jail after assaulting a police officer's house with a Christmas Tree. Heckinhottom has been replaced in today's side by Herman Mann. The 17year-old is the soo of assistant manager Kit Mann who has taken over runoing Sludgethorpe in Gaffer's absence. Ivor Niggle (huoions) and Shaun Prone (headache) are out.

### WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

Football

FOOtball

3.0 unions stated

FA CARLSBERG VASE Fourth round: Suctoury Town v Burscough Fourth-round replays Eugens Hill v Catherice; Lymington v Braintner, Narth Framby v Cowes Sports; Tooting & Mitchem v Galoby.

UniteDood LEAGUE Premier Division (Totare not on pools coupons): Aliration v Spennymore, Altinotham v Guiseloy, Frickley v Fadelffe Borough; Garnsborough v Barrow; Hyde v Barber Bridge; Lancaster v Mitchengton Stating First Division: Ashton Utd v Workington; Greaten v Luncoln Utd; Eastwood Town v Trafford; Farrisey Ceitic v Natherlati; Fisten v Belber; Great Harwood v Whitely Bay, Germa v Worksop; Harmogas Town v Stating Heat by Bay, Germa v Worksop; Harmogas Town v Statington; Statington v Hartington; Barbard v Brownsprove; Beth v St. Loonards Samprort; Dorchester v Farmorth; Goucaster v Atherston; Halesowen Town v Martington; Hastings v Cambridge City; Kingle Lynn v Crawley, Hostinge of Versier, Stating Statington v Romeston, Stitingbourne v Forest Green Rovers; Worcester v Gressley Rovers.
Middend Division: Bedworth v Eversiam; Statemal v Moor Green; Grantfarm v Statinard Rangers; Hendey Utd v Stourbridge; Flacing Cub Warwick v Brackley; Solftul v Illesters Stating College of Versiers Stating College of Versiers Catherto V Farshem; Clevedon v Hevent; Derntord v Carderfund; Fisher Athledo v Erth & Selvedors; Kangele v Weymouth; Nawpord (InW) v Newport (Gwent); Christing Withouth and Carden v Harmey.

White League The Weymouth; Newpord (Anny Market College) Powers v Harmey.

White League The Weymouth; Derntord v Abhagdon Town; Barton Rovers v Harmey.

v Whitstable: Greenwich v Chatham (2.15); Heme Bay v Cray Wanderers; Hythe v Stade Green; Ramsgate v Carterbury; Swerley Fu-ness v Enth Town (2.0); Thamsemed v Crockenhill; Turbridge Wells v Lordswood; VCD Athletic V Faversham (2.15). INNJET of Internal VCD Amietic v Faversham (2.15).
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Arundel v Chichester; Hailchem v Rednil; Langney Sports v Porthald; Pagham v Hassocks; Ringmer v Mile Oak; Safdean v Shoreham; Saisey v Peacetaven & Teleconthe

combe.

UMLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE
Premier Division: Cogenhoe v Bourne; Eynesbury v Buckingham Town; Ford Sports
v Starmford; Holbesch v Long Buckby;
Kernpston v Potton: Mirriese Blackstone v
St Neots; Spalding v Boston Town; Wellingborough v Northampton Spencer; Wootton

borough v Northempton Spencer, Wootton v Stortoid.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Chopserham v Emore; Backwel v Bristol Manor Farm; Bamstagle v Mekshem; Brisington v Bidelord; Calne v Keynshem; Chard v Mengorafiseti, Odd Down v Bridport: Paulton v Tomogton; Itamion v Westbury; Trenton v Bindgwater.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Amold v Thackey: Brigg V Liversedge; Curzon Ashton v Osselt Town; Hatfield Main v Glasshoughton Westare; Maitby v Eccleshil, Osselt Albon v Huckrad; Portlefract v Hallam; Sefby v Armithorpe; Sheffield v Denatoy.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE Fotton v Whitchurch; Aerostructures v Christohurch; Boumenouth Fc v Newbury; Brockenhurst v Andover; Downton v Ronsey; East Cowes v Bernerton Heath; Gosport v Thacham.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier v Bamerton Heath; Gosport v Treathers, DewSon Eastern LEAGUE Prender Division: Bury Rown v Soham; Cacton v Na-boys; Palerrham v Tiptree; Great Yarmouth v By; Haletead v Woodbridge; Histon v Fe-licatione; Lowestott v Des; Stowmarker Harwich & Perkeston; Sudbury Warder v Newmarker; Woorken v Warton.

v Newmarker, Wroshem v Weston.
INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDIAND ALLIANCE: Blorwich v Olchury: Boldmere SI
Michaels v Wilsenhall: Kings Norion v Chesetown: Knyperskey v Perstoner; Pelsall v
Bridgnorth: Rocester v Stratford; Rushal v
Hajesouen Harmers; Sandwell v Staperhall:
Shifted v Wednesfield. Shifnal v Wednesfield.

ARROTT INSURANCE NORTHERN
LEAGUE First Division: Bilingham Synthoma v Murnor; Bilingham Town v South
Shelds; Durston FB v Perntti: Outlant v
Northallerton; Essagor v Stocknon; Jarrow
Øedlington; Morpeth v Guestorough:
Shidon v Consett, Tow Law v Crook. SYBUCH V CONSETT, NOW LAW V LOOK.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First
Division: Anierton LR v Maine Road; Darven v Salford City Holler Old Boys v Warrington; Nartwich v Atherion Coffens;
Newcaste Town v Hastingden; Ramebottom castle Town v Hasingden: Ramsbottom isslay. St Helens v Chadderton, Leegue

Cup third round: Back-pool Rovers v Xauhag GM; Garswood v Glossop, Statmersdale
v Kdsgrove.
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE:
Brora Rangers v Nairn County; Cove
Rangers v Fort Writern; Deveronvale v
Clachnecoddin, Eight v Wick Academy, Forres Mechanics v Buckle Thartis: keith v
Fraserburgh; Peterhead v Lossemouth;
Rothes v Huntly
LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Havetordwest (230); Barry v Cwinteran (230); Casssws v Inter Cable-Tell Cardiff (230); Corneas Yings
Mon v Casemanton (230); Eibbw Vale v
Newtown (230); Filth v Rink (230); Porthmadog v Bangor Cry (230).
BASS IRISH CUP Fifth round: Ands v Insthine; Ballyctare v Ballymoney; Ballymens
v Gientoran; Camek v Armagh; Chroniae
v Gienswon; Colerace v Chronic (270); Crumarese Miss v Köylesigh (215); Cungannon
Swifts v Ballinamellard; Durmuny Rec V Ards
Rangers (215); Lame v Portadown; Unified
v Tebermore, Loughgali v Crumin (235),
Newry v Dundels, Omagh v Limavady
HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELANO
Premier Olvision: Derry Crty v Krishny
(730).

Puschy Ulinion

**Rugby Union** 3.0 unless stated INTERNATIONAL MATCH

TETLEY'S ATTER CUP Fifth round: Bath v Richmond; London Insh v Rotherham, Nonthampton v Gloucester: Sarapers v Leicester (2.30): West Hartlepool v Rugby

Leicester (2.50): West Fau respond v mayor, (2.0).

ALLIED CUNBAR PREMIERSHIP TWO: Coventry v Orial; London Scottish v Exetta. JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE; Harnogate v Liverpool St Helens (2.15): Leeds v Oriey; Nottingham Reading; Warardeale v Lydney (2.15) Two North (2.30); Hinchley v Kendal; Lichtied v Brimingham/Schlivit; Nameation v Westal, Sandal v Streffield (2.15); Seddley Park v Aspalma (2.15); Stouthonge v Presion Grasstroppers, Winnington Park v Manchester Two South (2.30); Herriey v Taberto (2.0), Mearopotan Police v Plymouth (3.0) North Washam v Barling (2.15); Redruth v Bridgwater Weston-super-Mare v Christo (3.0); Abertool SWALEC CUP Fifth round (2.30); Abertool ing (2.19); Negrotin (3.0) Weston-super-Mare v Chitron (3.0) Aberauch SWALEC CUP Fight round (2.30); Aberauch Maester; Abertiarer v Aberauch Quins Buith Weils v Narberm; Cwingor's v Caerphily (2.0), Caendriath v Flumovy, Lbandowy v Neath, Merthyr v Llanels (2.0) Newbridge v Carditt Penydraig v Tedegar, Pontypied v Treotroy; Seven Sariets v Cross Meys, South Wales Police v Newport Tondu v

Swansea, Tonyrefall v Ebbw Vale, UWIC v Mountain Ash; Ynysytwl v Llanharan, Alla LEAGUE First Division (2.30): Ballymens v Contact Doctrary Dungarmon; Garryowen v Old Crescent; Lansdownte v Shankon; Old Behvedere v Terenue, St Mary's v Constitution, Young Munster v Blackrock College, Sectond Division (2.30): Galwegars v Buccarners; Marytones v Dirry; Instinians v Wanderers; Malone v DLSP, Monkstown v Bective Rangers, Old Wesley v Sunday's Web, Skernes v UCC CLUB MATCHES; Boroughmur v Waterfoo; Landon Welsh v Black wood (2.15); Metode v Peebles (2.30);

NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier: Canterbury v Bartord Tigers (L30), Gudford v Beeston (L30), et Einedweier School, Summers Lare, Farncombel, Reading v Hourston (20); Soungaire v Carnock (20); Teddington v Doncaster (120);

v Peables (230)

Donicaster (120)
ESL SOUTH Pramier: Beckenham v Gore
Court, Bournemouth v Purley: C4y of
Portsmouth v Herne Bay, High Wycombe v
Moderthead: Bamgarthe v Worlang: Richmond v Farehem Trojans v Old Whitghtens.
Turbridge Wells v Esskorle, Warnbedon v
Cruchester: Winchester v Anchonans.
DTZ MIBLAND Premier: Blossominat v
North Sterkord, Edgbaston v khalis, Harborne v Hampton-Harden; North Notts v
Northampton Sants, Nottingham v Coventry & North Warwick; Otton & West Warwick
v Blos with.

y Debarrat.

ADNAMS EAST Premier: Cambridge Univ v Beshops Storiford, Clacton v Cambridge City: Colchester v Peterborough Town, Luton Town v Ipswort: Sudbury v Costru. ton fown v joswich, Sudbury v Costry.

NORTH Premier: Ben Rhydding v Swalwel.

Chester v Sheffeld Barkers, Harrogast v Forntry. Neston v Durham Univ Norton v Wigan, Timperley v Southport:

WEST OF ENGLAND & SOUTH WALES Premier: Birsto Univ v Robinsons Cheltenam v Taunton Valer, Cleredon v Euster Univ. Swansea v Beth Baccaneers Whitchurch v Weston-super-Mare. Windhurch v Weston-sper-Mark
WOMEN'S EUROPEAN INDOOR NATIONS CUP (Orense, Spl: Pool A: England, Storaka, Lithuana Scofand, Pool B:
Ausma, Germany, Russia Spari, (Pool
gemes, and seas-heak).

games and sent-final().

WOMEN'S INDOOR NATIONAL LEAGUE
Play-offs (Cooks Moor Woods, Birming-ham): Harisston Magnes v Whitey Bay
(If 20): Tresurs v North Staffs (1230). Exerciv
v Hairsston Megnes II 302 (Cition Scottish
Life v Trojans (230) Whitey Bay v Exercise
(320) North Staffs v Cition Scottish Life
420.

WOMEN'S WEST Premier: Bournemouth
v Chehenham Colwall v Tauriton vale
Leominster v E-mouth Redland v Vale

BUSWEISER LEAGUE: Leicester Riders v Chester Jets (730), Manchester Gants v Greater London Leopards (730), Worthing Bears v Watford Royats (80). UNI-BALL TROPHY Quarter-finel second leg: Exmingham Bullets v Newcastie Eagus (730).

Ice hockey SUPERLEAGUE: Beeingstoke Bean v New-castle Cobras (730): Nortingham Panthers v Carditt Devils (70)

Other sports ATHLETICS: Coca-Cola International Cross-BOWLS: Saga World Indoor Chempionships BOXING: Professional Promotion (Cardiff In-SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport).

TOMORROW Football

LEAGUE OF WALES: Corwy v Welshpool NARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELANO Premier Division: Cork, Criy v Sigo Rovers (21), St Patrick's Athlete v Shamrock Rovers (315) UCD v Finn Harps (315).

FRIENDLY MATCHES: Featherstone v Hal-ita: (3 30): Holf v Hull Kingston Rovets (3 ts), Leeds v Huddersfield (30); Leigh v Wogan (30), Saftond v Warmgton (30); Si He

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP Fifth round: Sale v Newbury (3.0), Waspe v Fylde (3.0); Worrester v Newcastle (2.30). TENNENTS PREMIERSHIP Third Division: Glenrones v Stewarts Medica. Rugby Union

EMA CUP Quarter-finals; Barlord Tigers v Camerbury (20), Chichester v Stourport (10); Doncascor v Beeston (20), Old Cranleighans v Cannock (130)

NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier: Old NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier: Old Loughtoncars v East Grossed (20): South-gale v Hourston (20): First Division: Brock-lands v Oxford Univ (20): Isca v Warrington (230): Loughborough Sudents v SI Abans (230): Shalfield v Huit (20): Surbiton v Brom-ley (230): WOMEN'S EUROPEAN INDOOR NA-TIONS CUP (Orense, Sp): Play-off games

sy-offs (Cocks Moor Woods, Blum): Pool play-offs, 100 and 1050. WORDA'S MICHAND BANK WELSH NA-TIONAL: Newport v Swansea; Newtown v Portyprod; Penarth v Cardiff Athletic; UWIC v Colwyn Bay.

ice hockey WOMEN'S INDOOR NATIONAL LEAGUE

Derby Storm (6.0); Shaffield Sharks v London Towers (6.30) ICE ROCKEY
SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scottish Eagles v
Nortingham Parthera (830); Eracknell Boes
v Newcastyle Cobras (60); Cardiff Devils v
Basingstoke Bloon (60), Manchester Storm
v Sheffield Strellera (60)

Other sports BOWLS: Sage World Indoor Championships (Preston). SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport).

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# AROUND THE RESORTS AUSTRÍA ITALY SPAIN UNITED STATES

Snow Reports supplied by Ski Hotling

# Gallagher hopes the roof will fall in on rich and famous



Stevenage Borough's veteran goalkeeper, Des Gallagher, has enjoyed a colourful career - he was once apprehended dribbling down the wing naked. Tomorrow he faces **Newcastle United** - and perhaps Alan Shearer. Mike Rowbottom reports.

Freshly showered after their midweek victory over Hereford United, the players and staff of Stevenage Borough decamped to the clubhouse for their customary postmatch meal and drink.

As the men who have taken this GM Vauxhall Conference side to the FA Cup fourth round for the first time in the club's history tucked into their spaghetti bolognaise and sipped cautiously at their lager, the television in the corner burst into aggressive promotion-

It was Sky TV, trumpeting tomorrow's live hroadcast of "the big one" -Stevenage versus Newcastle United. A roar - part recognition, part celebration, part disbelief-went through the clubbouse. And now the highlights were running of Newcastle's victory at Derby, inspired by the return of land manager, Glenn Hod-

dle, has identified as his Shearer. "He's back," the commentator bellowed

Looking up from his spag bol, the footballer to whom this news was perhaps more immediately relevant than any other - Stevenage's goalkeeper, Des Gallagher - raised his eyebrows momentarily before restoring his attention to the plate in front

"When the draw was made, I of his injury," Gallagher said. "But when they hrought him on against Derby, I suddenly thought: 'Crikey. You are going to play against Alan



most important player in this sum- viously, if be does play, it will make of progressing to the fifth round - fessional at Stevenage, having played one season playing in Perth, Aus-'Smudger' on him."

Smudger, alias the Stevenage centre-hack Mark Smith, is a highly effective operator whose efforts were instrumental in achieving the victories over Cambridge United and then Swindon Town in the two previous rounds. Whether he will be able to quell the England centre-forward if Kenny Dalglish decides to risk him in the charged atmosphere of didn't expect him to be back because Stevenage's Broadhall Way ground

Gallagher ruefully acknowledged that he was likely to be significantly more busy tomorrow than on the dent." freezing evening of Hereford's vis-"It's in the back of my mind all it. Stevenage, the sole non-League the time. In years to come, it would survivors in the competition, are not be nice to say that I've done that. Ob- entitled to hold out any realistic hope

in the fact that their last match before "the big one" should have been against the side that so famously dumped Newcastle out of the FA Cup in 1972.

The manager will have us all in a positive frame of mind," said Gallagher, who was chosen for England's semi-professional international with the Netherlands two seasons ago. "We don't want them to score an early goal to get on top, but the longer the game goes on we are convinced we can sneak a goal. Anything can happen and we are quietly confi-

Regardless of tomorrow's result, the occasion will rank as the highlight of this affable keeper's career. At 35, Gallagher is the senior pro-

whom he has been for 14 of the last

Rejected by Watford, where he played briefly as a schoolboy alongside Kenny Jackett, Steve Terry and Nigel Callaghan, he arrived at Broadhall Way in 1985 after a numher of seasons spent in the South Midlands League with teams near his home in Luton.

At that time Stevenage were down in the Isthmian League Second Division and just starting a phenomenal rise through the ranks which has been guided in recent years by the current manager, Paul Fairclough. The interlude in Gallagher's Stevenage career came between 1988 and 1992, when he turned out for Dunstahle Town and also spent

as a penalty-taker at Dunstable, making the headlines in a match ed kicking the ball and all the playagainst Erith when he scored twice ers just collapsed laughing." from the spot and saved a penalty himself. That season he finished as

joint top scorer with eight goals. Outfield activity of a more ambitious nature had earned him another little place in non-League history during the 1987-88 season when he received an eight-match ban for bringing the game into disrepute after streaking while watching a Bank Holiday match.

"I'd been on the drink," said Gallagher with disarming directness. "Stevenage didn't have a game so I watched Vauxhall against Clacton in the Isthmian League because some of my mates were playing.

Sean, an actor who has made regular TV appearances in EastEnders and The Bill, is: also hoping to watch.

Gallagher readily admits that be, and most of his team-mates, would have preferred to play the tie at St James' Park. "The nearest I have been to the ground was seeing it from the train when we go up to play Gateshead," he said. "It looked pretty awesome." A week today the Stevenage players will have another tantalising railway glimpse of Newcastle's stadium, when they play Gateshead in the

FA Trophy. The hasty construction of extra seating at Broadhall Way has attracted more than a passing interest from Gallagher, who was a scaffolder for many years before taking up his present full-time job as a surveyor for a roof insulation company.

When work began during last Saturday's home match against Halifax, Gallagher was unable to resist using quiet moments to cast a professional eye over the progress of the project going on behind his goal on what one local wit has termed the Dalglish Stand.

En route for the clubbouse meal in midweek, he paused in front of the half finished infrastructure and gave his cautious approval. "It looks like it should be done in time," he said. "There'll probably be a penalty clause if it's not."

Gallagher's FA Cup preparation will involve measuring cavity walls in a series of north London lofts - he is working until Saturday. But, busy as he is, there is still plenty of time for him to be pestered for tickets - on Monday night, he and the other Stevenage players scuttled out of the changingroom like thieves clutching booty after receiving their

Gallagher has even been pressed for tickets by parents "There was a bit of banter and at the school where be drops off bis ere was a piquant coincidence more than 300 games for a club with tralia. He earned a name for himself some of the lads I was with dared me children in the mornings. It makes the FA Cup run of last year, which to do a streak. So I ran on and startended with a 2-0 defeat at Birmingbam City, appear relatively lowkey, "Biriningham just felt like a day out, but the hype and attention for this match is amazing," he said.

The news has long since carried to Gallagher's friends hack in Australia via screenings of BBC TV's Match of the Day. "One rang up and told me be had seen something on television about Stevenage playing Newcastle United in the FA Cup, and he said: 'That's not the real FA Cup. is it? I thought it might be another cup?' So I told him: 'There's only one

FA Cup'." True - and, just for the moment at least, its spirit lives on in Stevethe ground. Gallagber's hrother, nage.

### More emotion does not necessarily mean less authority

Never mind David Mellor and about Chris Kamara's sacking, what about the remarks made this week by one of Mellor's BBC colleagues, Zoe Ball?

Radio One's Breakfast Show presenter, a Manchester United fan for all of about five years (ie since their domination began), introduced her Dream Team on Radio Five Live on Monday, among them the and the "mean and moody" Roy Keane who, apparently, "has all the assets of a real footballer". She did not seem to be referring to Keane's box-to-box engine and passing skills.

Just a bit of fun, no doubt, but it still did women in football a buge disservice. We've climbed the proverbial mountain to get where we are today on a par, for the most part with our male contemporaries Ball's flippancies lowered our stock considerably.

Sure, women tend to have on the game, but more emoless authority. I hope I am ist who just happens to be a woman rather than a woman football journalist. Believe

However, the one aspect of his contentious comments the game in which women will never be the equal of men is on the pitch. But it is in being compared to the men's game that women's football has suffered. As Pete Davies, the author of I Lost My Heart to the Belles, says: "You wouldn't expect a woman cricketer to bowl as fast as Courtney Walsh or Sally Gunnell to race Linford Christie, so why expect "scrummy" David Beckham the Doncaster Belles to be of comparable standard to Doncaster Rovers?" Until we start coming from that standpoint, the woman's game will not get the respect it deserves.

Davies has done more than most to promote women's football in this country, but the Football Association has also played a part, assuming responsibility for the women's game from the WFA in 1993.

And while the nation might and 30 minutes worth of not be aware of it, engulfed as it is in all things appertaining to France 98, women's football is having something of a pura more emotional perspective ple patch. There are now 600 women's teams in the UK and tion does not necessarily mean at least 750 girls' teams, as compared to 263 in 1989. In fact, viewed as a football journal- the growth has been such that the current set-up needs restructuring.



ON PROBLEMS **ENCOUNTERED** BY WOMEN

ON AND OFF

THE PITCH

football worldwide at around 30 million, while almost six million tuned into the 1995 World Cup final in Sweden between Germany and Norway. The 1996 Olympic Games final, in which the US beat China 2-1, attracted a crowd of 76,000.

Davies accepts the growth in the number of participants, and in the extent of the coverage, but maintains that the der-11 team and was allocatstandard of women's football in the UK has hardly changed in a decade. Which might be reached an abrupt end when why the FA hosted a pow-wow Fifa, meanwhile, estimates this week at Lancaster Gate for school's ankle with a terrible

and developing talented fe- gether at school. male players from an early age" through better training, better support networks (rehabilitation, nutrition and diet) and better funding. They want women's football to become the UK's major female sport. The Lottery Sports Fund

will have a hig say in whether they achieve that aim, but it is attitude as much as money that women footballers train four nights a week and the game gains extensive coverage; ditto Scandinavia. Io the US. around nine million women play football, while Japan will support a professional women's league next year.

Consequently, their players are fitter and more athletic than ours, who lack the opportunities to hone their skills from an early age. But the goalposts are shift-

ing. I played football at school in the days when a girl playing football was "just not on". I had to play in the boys' uned a separate changing-room for away matches. (My career I hroke the captain of the me, there is a big difference. the number of women playing the major players in the tackle). These days, however,

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women's game aimed, among it is common to see both boys other things, at "identifying and girls playing football to-

So while next year's women's World Cup in America might come too soon as far as the British game is concerned (England are vying to qualify with world champions Norway, Germany and the Netherlands; their next match is against Germany at the New Den on 8 March), by the time the next World Cup arrives, it is the issue bere. Germany's - might, as they say, be a different hall game all together. Part of the problem has

also been that our culture does not support a dedicated national women's sport. Netball comes closest, but with all due respect it hardly stiffens the sinews (my knowledge extends to the fact that England star Gill Neville is Gary and Phil's sister, and that we always get beaten by the Aussies). Perhaps if women's football was allowed to stand on its own two feet rather than constant-

ly having to match - and, by definition, failing to do so - the standard set by the men's Mexico and Arizona. game, it might assume that role. Granted, it has some similarities with the men's game - Arsenal and Liverpool are among its top six clubs - but very few in reality. Everton are top of the

### No more jokes if United move to Wembley

The naked custodian was even-

tually apprehended while dribbling

down the wing - one of the clubs'

chairmen had to drag him from the

field of play. "It didn't go down too

well with my manager at the time,"

Gallagher said, with a grin. "But I've

mellowed with age. I still like a night

out with the lads, but I'm a family

His wife, Denise, and sons Calum

and Reuben, will be present tomor-

row in a crowd expected to number

more than 8,000 thanks to the ad-

ditional seating which has been spe-

cially constructed behind one end of

man now.

jokes: what do you buy a Man Brooklyn, where the popu- of all, the Utah Jazz (retained United fan for Christmas? A road map of Manchester. I was recently discussing this attitude towards United fans with an American friend and he was surprised by the idea that you had to have a direct connection with the location of the team you support.

In the States, it is far less common. for historical reasons which began with haseball. Until the 1960s, baseball was the king of American professional sports. Basketball and American football existed but did not achieve prominence until widespread television coverage.

Before the Second World War, nearly all the main sports teams were hased in the East since that was where most of the population lived. But after the war, widespread use of the car led to a shift of populations away from the cities and into the suburbs. The population also began a westward migration towards California and later the south west, to places such as New

In the meantime, the West quickly and off the shelf. The great change began with the Brooklyn Dodgers. The

lation was beginning to migrate to the suburbs.

Los Angeles dangled a good offer in front of Dodgers' owner, Walter O'Malley, and he moved the team lock, stock and barrel to a brand new stadium provided by the citizens of Los Angeles.

The Dodgers' move opened the floodgates. During the 1950s, the Giants moved from New York to San Francisco, the Braves from

FAN'S EYE VIEW NO 241. **NEW TRAFFORD BOB CHAUNDY** 

Boston to Milwaukee (then to Atlanta in the 1960s), the Athletics from Philadelphia to Kansas City. In addition, the Lakers (basketball) movedfrom Minnesota to Los An- be quite so fantastical for a geles, as did the Philadelphia Warriors to San Francisco.

The retention of the orig-Coast was booming and inal team names led to the sight), the Los Angeles Lak-Dodgers, originally called ta land of a thousand takes), map!

OK, so we've all heard the the Trolley Dodgers, were in and perhaps the most bizarre from New Orleans).

Today, the transplanting of sports franchises especially in American football has become an epidemic. And so, the Baltimore Colts upped and went to Indianapolis, the St Louis Cardinals left for Arizona. Both Los Angeles teams are now gone, the Raiders moving back to Oakland where they had moved from just a few years before, and the LA Rams relocated to St Louis. It all makes Wimhledon's proposed move to Dublin look tame.

Alex Ferguson said recently his ultimate dream is an 80,000 capacity ground which he is convinced would be filled at home games. The - same thought has occurred to Arsenal who have the idea of moving to Wembley.

But one problem is that Arsenal would never be able to fill it, while United could. And given the experience of the United States, it would not new London mayor to push for United to move into this new

home in north-west London. Obviously, it would be rewanted major league sport. anomalous Los Angeles named New Trafford. One Dodgers (not a trolley in thing's for certain - if United were based at Wembley, ers (retained from Minneso- the fans wouldn't need a road

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# Titanic struggle in prospect as Boro look to make waves

There is a chance that some of the Premiership's flagship sides could be sunk by lower-division opposition in the fourth round of the FA Cup. Phil Show looks at the prospects of a wet weekend for some, while Nick Harris (below) analyses the

programme match by

match.

In a week dominated by sinking ships, in the White House and on the silver screen, the FA Cup's fourth round resembles a disaster waiting to happen for some of the Premiership's most

opulent members. So there could be no better time for Arsenal, Newcastle and Aston Villa to have the option of welcoming back the past, present and possibly future England captains in Tony Adams, Alan Shearer and Gareth

Southgate respectively. All three, having had lengthy lay-offs through injury, may feel as if they are going in at the deep end of the Bermuda Triangle. For while their teams all meet opposition from a lower level, it will surely not be plain sailing for any of them.

Arsenal, who visit Middlesbrough, face the most arduous task. Despite seven matches

without defeat, the failure to his sudden departure. Arsenal hours' play bodes ill for their prospects against the team ly-

ing second in the same division. Adams' reappearance would offset the loss of David Seaman, who had just been rediscovering his best form. However, the man their fans believe epitomises the essence of the club will be straining every

sincw to knock them out One suspects Paul Merson would react to scoring the winner against his beloved Gunners with the same mixture of professional satisfaction and personal sadness that Denis Law showed after his hackheeled goal relegated Manchester United. Merson says he has nothing to prove to Arsène Wenger. Yet there are many, even within the Highbury

squad, who were dismayed by

beat Port Vale in three and a half are not over-blessed with proven performers under 30.

Bryan Robson's team appear better equipped to handle the mental and physical rigours of Cup lighting than several of Wenger's players. Boro reached hoth major finals last spring Arsenal have not gone beyond the fourth round of the FA Cup since winning it in 1993.

On the face of it, Villa and Newcastle ought to steer clear of danger at home to West Bromwich Albion and away to Stevenage respectively. The trouble with the Cup, or rather its enduring attraction, is its habit of bringing out hidden depths in the most innocuouslooking of obstacles.

Brian Little and Kenny Dalglish have both had to make a critical decision concerning the centre-forward

oosition. The Villa manager, relieved to restore Southgate after the 5-0 hattering at Blackhurn, will not risk Savo Milosevic against Alhion.

Milosevic, transfer-listed for spitting at his own supporters, may not even be in the country, having reportedly flown home to Serbia. His absence will at least ensure that Villa's fans are behind them. Hostility towards him might have created the ideal atmosphere for the First Division outfit.

Dalglish, meanwhile, probably saw enough in Shearer's 30-minute cameo at Liverpool to persuade him that the £15m man is ready to start against Stevenage's part-timers tomorrow. His presence would give added spice to a tie which, after all the acrimony over

venues, needed none. The home side stand 99

places behind Newcastle. Even if Shearer's introduction were to be delayed, Dalglish's highson's hands. ly paid internationals should be

thinkahle. For one thing, the last Conference-Premiership meeting, between Woking and Coventry a year ago, was initially drawn. For another, Newcastle's Cup record since the 1960s includes defeats by non-League Hereford and Bedford, as well as a draw with Hendon. Stevenage will also have a wbole city be-

unsinkable, although there are

grounds for believing in the un-

hind them, namely Sunderland. Manchester United's devastating rout of the holders, Chelsea, suggests they should be too quick and powerful to slip up at home to Walsall. Jan Sorensen, the Second Division cluh's Danish manager, ad-

vocates an open passing game.

Commendable as that is, it is likely to play into Alex Fergu-

The other Manchester club - which is, alas, what City are nowadays - stage what looks likely to be a far closer tie. against West Ham tomorrow. It would be all too typical of City to be relegated and win the Cup in the same season.

Leeds and Wimbledon, struggling in the Premiership recently, also face an awkward passage. Leeds, who receive Grimsby, struggle against the ball played in on the ground to mohile strikers, which is Alan Buckley's managerial trademark. They also have a history of home knock-outs by smaller clubs. Portsmouth and Reading both joined the list

over the past 12 months. At nearby Huddersfield, resurgent under Peter Jackson they won the Cup.

and Terry Yorath, Wimhledon will do well to repeat their fifthround victory of two years ago. The mood at one of Yorath's former clubs, Cardiff, may be subdued against Reading following Russell Osman's dismissal as manager. No such

problems at The Valley, where

Charlton anticipate their

higgest crowd since reopening in 1992 for the visit of Wolves. Crystal Palace's tussie with Leicester raises the possibility of Tomas Brolin being shadowed by his fellow Swede, Pontus Kamark, while Barnsley return to Tottenham barely a month since succumbing 3-0 there. It looks like full steam ahead for Spurs, although there may be a happy omen for Barnsley in the opening of a

certain film. The last time the

Titanic was launched, in 1912,

### Birmingham v Stockport

Runners-up 1931, 56

Best Cup

5th round 1935, 50

Birmingham will check on the fitness of their influential midfielder Martin O'Connor for the game with their First Division rivals at St Andrews. The former Crystal Palace, Walsall and Peterborough player has been having treatment for a groin problem all week but should be fit. Striker Kevin Francis has also been under treatment for a groin injury, but should be available. Gary Megson takes a full strength Stockport squad to Birmingham. "We are looking as good as we've looked on the injury front for a long time." Megson said, With Mile Flynn, Paul Cook and Jim Gannon shaking off injury, I-legson is likely to stand by the team who won at Bury last Sunday as County bid to reach the fifth round for the first time since 1950.

### Cardiff v Reading

Semi-finalists (927)

Cardiff's director of football, Kenny Hibbitt, takes his side into today's game without the help of team manager Russell Osman, who was sacked yesterday Hibbitt is expected to recall Craig Middleton after a two-match suspension. Hibbitt also has to decide on his strike partnership, although he is likely to rely on Kevin Nugent and Carl Dale, who played together for only the second time this season at Colchester on Tuesday.

Reading face a defensive crisis with five centre-backs on the injured list Barry Hunter, Linvoy Primus, Darius: Wdowczyk and Kerth McPherson have been joined on the injury list by Gareth Davies, Reading's £100,000 signing from Crystal Palace, who pulled a hamstring against Cheltenham, If Davies is unfit Michael Thorp, who replaced him against Chettenham, will make only his sixth start alongside Andy Bernal in the middle of the back four. Striker Carl Asaba has completed a three-match ban but is likely to be on the substitutes' bench.

### Charlton v Wolves

Charlton have eight successive home wins behind them including victories over promotion rivals Sheffield United, Nottingham Forest and Middlesbrough. They are expected to be unchanged for the third successive match. The London club have beaten Wolves just once in their last 15 meetings, and their only success against the Midlanders in the FA Cup was their 5-2 fourth-round win at the Valley

The Wolves manager, Mark McGhee, has refused to reveal his plans for today. McGhee has midfielder Paul Simpson available again after a three-match suspension but will not say if he will be recalled. Wolves are still without midfielders Simon Osborn and Michael Gilkes along with striker Steve Bull and centre-half Adnan Williams.

### Coventry v Derby

Best Cup

Coventry defender Gary Breen has recovered from a chest infection and will line-up alongside the recalled Richard Shaw, who replaces Paul Williams (hernia operation). Manager Gordon Strachan has to decide whether to include his recent (3.25m signing Viorel Moldovan, who has been on the bench for the last two games. The Derby striker Dean Sturndge is out with a thigh strain while midfielders Stefano Eranio, Lee Carsley and Darryl Powell are back from suspension and defender Christian Dailly could be on the bench. The Sky Blues have met Jim Smith's side four times since the Rams returned to the top flight at the start of the last season, and have lost on every occasion. They were convincingly beaten 3-1 at Pride Park back in November and suffered an embarrassing collapse in the FA Cup at the Baseball Ground last season.

Covertry manager Gordon Strachan is a confirmed fan of Smith and said: "Just to be in the game for as long as he has without going off his head means he must be a good manager. He has done very well over the years and has now built a very attractive side at Pride Park. They have a nice system which allows them to accommodate three types of striker. They play good, evening football but we are doing alright at the moment and I am happy with the way the lads are. They have had a spring in their step this week."

### Crystal Palace v Leicester

**Best Cup** 

RU 1949, 61, 63, 69

Crystal Palace will be without three key players through injury strikers Neil Shipperley and Italian Attilio Lombardo and defendercum-midfielder Neil Emblen, but record £2.75m signing from Strasbourg defender Valérien Ismael, is likely to make his debut. Midfielder Simon Rodger is still having treatment. Palace have not won a home Premiership match all season, despite overcoming both Scunthorpe and Hull in their two Cup games at Selhurst Park. Coppell sees the FA Cup as a "pleasant diversion" from their continuing struggle against relegation and has highlighted Leicester as the side that his team must emulate if they are to survive - and produce a good cup

The Palace manager highlighted the skills of Leicester wing bad: Steve Guppy and centre-half Matt Elliott, who was with Palace as a youngster, and said: "We said at the start of the season that they were Our role models. They came into the Premiership via the play-offs, survived and then won the Coca-Cola Cup which got them into Europe." He added: "They just keep on going and going like Wimbledon do. That's the quality that ourselves and all promoted sides

have got to look at matching." Leicester manager Martin O'Neill is set to field an unchanged line. up as strike duo Emile Hestsey and Ian Marshall should be fit from groin problems and skipper Steve Walsh, who faces a fitness test on a hamstring strain, expects to be given the all-clear.

### ...And statistics

opponents

1992-93

1993-94

1994-95

1995-96

1992-93

1993-94

1994-95

4th md

15

19

### Stevenage aiming to break new ground

is the gap between the Premiership and the Nationwide League growing? Although not one Premiership club suffered a glant-folling in the third out lost to fellow Premiership opponents - the evidence of the last three years suggests that bridging the divide has not necessarily become

In each of the last three seasons five Premiership teams have been knocked out by lower-division opposition. This followed the remarkable 1993-94 campaign, when there were 12 Premiership giant-killings. A year earlier, however, only three

When Premiership teams have lost to lower-division

Number of Premiership teams reaching each round

6th md

5th md

Premiership sides had suffered that fate. Stevenage, who entertain Newcastle tomorrow, can Premiership club suffered a glant-killing in the third find little encouragement in recent history. Since round of this season's FA Cup - all five teams to go the formation of the Premiership no top-flight team has none out to Third Division or non-League

Over that period each of the five finals have been all-Premiership contests: Sunderland (in 1992) were the last team from outside the top division to reach the final. There have also been only two "intruders" in the semi-finals: Luton four seasons ago and Chesterfield fast year. The last winner from outside the top division was West Ham in 1980.

division opposition

Three defeats

Arsena

Everton

West Ham

Blackburn

Leeds

Liverpool

Southampton

Two deteats

Statistically speaking, the most likely glant-killing victims this weekend are Arsenal, Everton and West Ham. They have the worst records against lower-division opponents, each having lost three times since the formation of the Premiership. Blackburn, Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield Wednesday and Southampton have all suffered the same fate

The least likely Gollaths of the weekend are Manchester United, who were last felled by a David 17 years ago, when Jan Lohman's goal gave Watford a farnous victory at Vicarage Road.

Premiership teams with the worst records against lower-

(Bolton 93-84, Millwall 94-95, Sheffield United 95-96) (Botton 93-94, Port Vale 95-96, Bradford 96-97) (Luton 93-94, Grimsby 95-96, Wrescham 96-97)

(Charlton 93-94, Ipswich 95-96) Oxford 93-94, Portsmouth 96-97) Bolton 92-93. Bristol City 93-94) (Wolves 94-95, Charlton 95-96) Sheffield Wednesday (Port Vale 93-94, Reading 96-97)

Painful memories: most recent slayings of this weekend's. potential giant-killing victims

Watford 1 Manchester United 0 Wimbledon 0 Bristol City 1 Luton 2 Newcastle 0 Bolton 1 Aston Villa 0 Sheffield United 1 Arsenal 0 West Ham 0 Wrexham 1



### Huddersfield v Wimbledon

Best Cup

Huddersfield will be without new staller Paul Barnes as he is Cuptied after playing for former club Burnley against Rotherham in an earher round. The arrival of manager Peter Jackson and coach Terry Yorath has increased the belief that Town are primed for shock.

Wimbledon have limited striking options with forwards Marcus Gayle. and Carl Cort having only former Barnet front man Andy Clarke as back-up. Manager Joe kinnear's problem is compounded with recent striker signing Carl Leaburn cup-tied. He is still without Efan El-oku (anilie ligaments) and Jason Euell (dislocated shoulder)

### Ipswich v Sheffield United

W 1899 (202), 15, 25

Ipswich will have centre-half Jason Cundy (thigh) and midfielder Bobby Petta (flu) back but midfielder Fieron Dyer (groin) and centre-ball Tony Mowbray (groin) will have fitness tests. Back in the Ipswich squad for the first time this season is Dirtch full back Gus Uhlenbeek after a foot operation. Sheffield United will be without David Lee. The on- RU 1997 loan Chelsea defender is ineligible and returns to Stamford Bridge ne- t

#### Leeds v Grimsby Best Cup

Leeds will be without South African defender Lucas Radebe (back) and Norwegian midfielder All Inge Haland, who is ruled out with an ankle injury it ligel Martyn replaces Mark Beene, in goal after completing his one-match ban. Tommy Widdingston is out of the Grimsby squad with a recurrence of a back strain. The former Southampton kingsley Black or Nevin Jobling will stand in

### Manchester United v Walsall

W 1949, 48, 63, 77, 83

Ole Gunnar Soiskjaer and Andy Cole will spearhead the Manchester United attack as England international Teddy Shenngham has not been in training Brian McClair, Henning Berg and Phil Neville come into the squad. Berg said yesterday: "I don't know too much about Walsall but the manager does. We know that if we don't do our things right and play up to our normal standard, then it is going to be a very tough game." Walsall go into the tie with I lanchester United at Old Trafford with memones of a 1975 giant-filling over the famed Red Devits. Twenty three years ago they drew 0-0 at Old Trafford in the third round, then won the replay at Fellows Parl 3-2 in extra time. And they go into tomorrow's match with four successive wins behind them in league and cup matches this year. Geoff Peron (harrstring) has recovered while veteran slupper Derel. Mountfield lines up in defence after recovering from a back injury.

#### Middlesbrough v Arsenal Best Cup

W 1930, 36, 50, 71, 79, 93 performances

Iniddlesbrough manager Bryan Robson only has one major injury prob-Iem with Republic of Ireland international full back Curtis Fleming definitely out following an appendix operation. Robson's side may feature up to five teenagers. England Under-18 internationals Anthony Cirmerod and Andy Campbell, along with youngsters Craig Harrison, Steve Baller and Mark Summerbell may all feature as more senior players are rested for League games. Piobson said: "The kids have not let me down this season. Promotion is our top priority and the next League match at Stolle City is more important than the cup ties." Arsenal captain Tony Adams returns to replace the injured Martin Keown, who is joined on the sidelines by David Seaman and Ian Wright. Alex Manmidfielder was expected to slot in for Wayne Burnett, who is on loan inniger will deputise for Seaman and Nicolas Anelka for Wright, but from Huddersheld, but has had a recurrence of a back strain. Either — Marc Overmans (harnstring) is set to return and midfielder David Platt igmin) is still ruled out.

#### Aston Villa v West Bromwich Best Cup

W 1888, 92, 1931, 54, 68 W 1887, 95, 97, 1905, 13 1920, 57

England defender Gareth Southgate returns to the Aston Villa lineup after recovering from an ankle injury and it is a timely comeback as Riccardo Scimeca has been ruled out of today's match with a hamstring problem.

West Brom manager Denis Smith has no new injury problems to contend with and is likely to leave combative midfielder Peter Butler out of the line-up in favour of young striker Lee Hughes. Albion have been impressive in the last couple of games when Hughes and Kevin Kilbane have worked together on the flanks, with Andy Hunt and Micky Evans spearheading the attack.

Smith is relishing the chance to tackle Villa, saying: "These are the games you live for as a player and a manager. The opportunity to take on one of your local rivals and a team in the Premier League - it doesn't get much better than that."

### Tottenham v Barnsley

Best Cup W 1901, 21, 61, 62, 67

performances

Jürgen Klinsmann is likely to be partnered for the first time by fitagain Tottenham striker Les Ferdinand. Ferdinand has recovered from a thigh injury, but manager Christian Gross will decide in the morning whether to start with the England striker. Tottenham will also be without club captain Gary Mabbutt. He took a knock on his hig toe in training on Wednesday. Gross will play Frenchman David Ginota in a free role behind the front two, sacrificing Scotland international Colin Calderwood from his recent midfield anchor slot, which now goes to Italian import Nicola Berti. Espen Bardsen, the 20-year-old Norwegian goalkeeper, retains his place, with lan Walker still recovering from a shoulder injury. Gross has refuted suggestions that Walker could be out for three months, saying the England reserve could be ready to return in two weeks.

Barnsley striker Jan Age Fjortoft, a recent £800,000 signing from Sheffield United, is Cup-tied so manager Danny Wilson will choose between John Hendrie. Andy Liddell and Georgi Hristov to partner Ashley Ward in attack. Centre-hacks Arjan de Zeeuw and Adie Moses return to the defence having completed two-match suspensions.

### Tranmere v Sunderland

Best Cup

W 1937, 73

Tranmere face a difficult task as Kenny Irons starts a two-match ban and Lee Jones, Gary Stevens and Andy Thome are all likely to be sidelined. Striker David kelly (knee) is only rated a 50-50 chance and central defender John McGreal faces a late fitness test on a

An injury to Darren Williams is threatening Sunderland manager Peter Reid's plans to name an unchanged side for a record-breaking II games in today's game. Williams is struggling to recover from a hamstring injury picked up against Manchester City. Alex Rae missed training earlier in the week but is expected to recover from a thigh injury. Reid has several options if 20-year-old Williams is ruled out and although Richard Ord is favourite, Chris Makin, Andy I leiville and skipper kevin Ball all come into contention.

### TOMORROW

#### Manchester City v West Ham **Best Cup**

W 1904, 34, 56, 69

Manchester City's chances of causing an FA Cup upset have been boosted by C3.5m striker Lee Bradbury's return to the squad. Bradbury has been out for nearly four months after breaking a bone in his back last October.

Tim Breacker returns to the West Ham squad after recovering from ankle and knee problems but fellow right wing bad. Andy Impey is definitely out, along with Paul Kitson, who still has a groin injury. Steve Lomas will replace the suspended John Moncur in midfield. Lornas returns to the West Ham team to face his former club with the job of stopping the man he rates as having the "fastest feet in football." The Hammers captain will be asked to cancel out the threat of Manchester City midfielder Georgi Kinkladze. Lornas comes back after a three-match ban.

### Stevenage v Newcastle

Best Cup

W 1910, 24, 32, 51, 52, 55

Stevenage manager Paul Fairclough has one major selection headache for tomorrow's tie with Newcastle. Full-back: Ryan Kirby is suspended for the eagerly-anticipated clash at Broadhall Way af ter his sending-off in the second round at Cambridge United and a number of bookings, james Dillnutt is the favourite to fill in, but the product of the clubs development scheme is only 18 and Fairclough may not want to risk him on such a big occasion.

Three players have thigh strains - midfielder Simon Stapleton, defender Steve Holden and Guiliano Grazioli - but all three hope to be fit. Grazioli missed Monday's victory over Hereford, but should come in, with either Neil Trebble, Gary Crawshaw or Dean Wordsworth likely to step down. The team will train today before Fairclough decides on his line-up.

Newcastle manager kienny Dalglish is waiting until tomorrow to decide if the England captain, Alan Shearer, will play, while the Belgian defender Philippe Albert has recovered from a hamstring strain. Midfielder David Batty has completed a four match ban but centre-half Darren Peacock must serve the second game of a two-match susSaturday 24 January 1998

# Restriction on World Cup tickets 'breaks European law'

The European Commission is investigating the possibility that the World Cup organisers' system of ticket

sales is illegal. Nick Horris

A Professor of European Community law at Oxford University is challenging the right of the World Cup's organisers to sell a majority of the tickets to the French. Professor Stephen Weatherill believes the fact "If anything needs to be done, it that 60 per cent of tickets have been made available only to purchasers in France is a clear breach of European

Professor Weatherill, who is arguing that the ticket policy is discriminatory and anti-competitive. In practice, he added, a fine would be the week. most probable outcome of any successful challenge.

The European Commission confirmed yesterday that it was looking into the legality of ticket sales for this summer's tournament following numerous inquiries. A spokesman would not speculate on what action, if any, would be taken, but added: needs to be done quickly."

This latest development follows controversy over the limited number of tickets available to fans of each "In principle it's possible that the team - an average of only 4,000 tickorganisers might have to scrap the ets per game will be made available CFO had only notified them of exclusively to the French. Another

entire system and start again," said to national associations for games featuring their teams - and disquiet about the tickets black market, as

> Professor Weatherill first contacted the European Commission in residents had already been sold. June last year to complain that the French Organising Committee (CFO) was in breach of Article 85 of the European Community Treaty. which prohibits anti-competitive behaviour within Europe. He argued that the sale of such a large number of tickets exclusively to the French on the grounds of nationality or residence was a hreach of that

The Commission told Professor

### **EXCLUSIVE**

revealed by The Independent last their distribution plans in June last year. By that time, however, most of the 1.5m tickets set aside for French

> At that stage, the Commission also appeared to be unaware that such large numbers of tickets had been allocated exclusively to the French. In a letter to Professor Weatherill, the Commission said: "It should now be possible for all interested football supporters, irrespective of their nationality and place of residence, to buy tickets via the available sources in France."

The reality is that just over 60 per Weatherill in September that the cent of tickets have been allocated

20 per cent are going to tour operators and sponsors and the remaining 20 per cent to Fifa, the world game's governing body, to divide between supporters of the competing teams and national football federa-

Under this system, England fans, for example, will have access to about 4,000 tickets (around eight per cent) for each England game via the Football Association and a maximum of 2000 more via tour operators. This represents a total share of around 12 per cent at maximum. Demand looks certain to outstrip supply by at feast 10 to one.

In a later response to Professor Weatherill's complaints the Commission said it believed that some

security reasons. It said it believed that the ticket distribution system did not hreak European law because supporters outside France still had access to tickets either from their national football federations or from tour operators, and hence their consumer rights were pro-

Professor Weatherill recognises the importance of security considerations, but has told the Commission that "the restrictions on distribution, which favour French residents, are disproportionate to achieve the object of public security".

He also argues that the system of discrimination is still, per se, a breach of the fundamental principles of EU law. In a letter to the Comticket restrictions were necessary for mission he said: "I urge you to act

to protect my rights both as a consumer under EU law and a Citizen of the European Union."

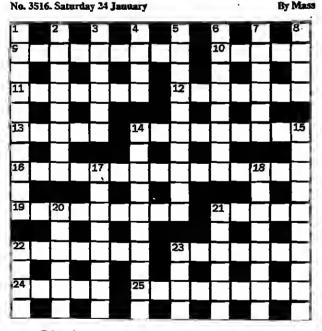
The Commission has agreed to look further into the matter, as has the CFO. Meanwhile, Professor Weatherill - whose chair at Oxford is, ironically, sponsored by the European Commission and whose full title is Jacques Delors Professor of European Community Law and Associate of Somerville College - is still waiting for a response.

Although the costs of any legal action would be highly prohibitive, he believes that an individual would have a good chance of successfully suing the CFO. The case, in law, is very very strong," he said.



Cleaning up: England's Nasser Hussain sweeps on his way to 159 against the West Indies A at Chedwin Park, Kingston, yesterday

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD





### **ACROSS**

Maybe resent having 1 Moore, involved with to accept small inducement (9)

10 Instrument producing ring – and again (5) 11 This food's worthless

stuff (7) 12 Droopy following liberal drug, we hear (7) 13 Italy, in centre, is

green (5) Glee rendered in festivity (9)

16 An accessory to a crime? (10,5)

19 One you'd expect to worship? (9) 21 Drink stifles energy and vision (5)
22 Immobility of train –

i.e. needs to get up steam (7) 23 Report of oil survey

24 Clergyman with no yen

to gorge (5)
25 Display most of glasses 20

### new star? (10) Studying a country carol

DOWN

Assail with service in

hectic set (6) Society swell, or one

pretending to be? (4) Favourite piano quotation (10) Amassing from fiddling

Almost snap man's old saw (6)

Fish circling line, and biting (4) 14 Dressing from part of

Ireland Annie's prepared (10) 15 Without question Mass is one testing setter of toughies (10)

17 Hives? (8) 18 Temporary stop made by a Turkish governor, one

around North (8) Struggle, bringing up girl in the city (6) 21 Mark's mean (6) 22 Indian's almost jailed

(4) 23 Munch cold chop (4)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday, Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, I. Canada Square, Canary Whart, London Et4 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode, Last week's winners: I. Doyle, Seamille, P. Suringer, Westbury-on-flym; A. Goodill, Abingdon; T. Spencer, London M. D. Martin, P. Stringer, Westbury-on-flym; A. Goodill, Abingdon; T. Spencer, London

### Woodward's men spread word in heartland of rugby league

It used to be pure rugby league territory - indeed, the flat-cap die-hards still consider it to be God's very own hackyard - but Huddersfield is about to receive another culture shock of the 15-man variety.

Having dipped one ten-tative toe in the Yorkshire water by hosting the midweek All Blacks at the McAlpine Stadium last November, England are now preparing to play their two pre-Christmas World Cup qualifying matches at the same venue.

Clive Woodward, the England coach, said yesterday: "I was very impressed with the Emerging England game against the All Blacks and by taking matches outside Twickenham, we can again show our The qualifying draw will take top talent to an equally appreciative audience."

The decision was made by Robert Horner, regional director of Rugby World Cup 1999, who predicts two selfouts at the 24,000-capacity stadium, despite the fact no one has the faintest idea who England's opponents might be when the round-robin contest takes place between 14 and 22 November, Like Scotland and Ireland, Woodward's side must play two of the lesser

through the second round of preliminary qualifying. Only the top three finishers from the 1995 World Cup - South Africa, New stadium when I watched the Zealand and France - and the 1999 hosts. Wales, have been granted automatic entry to next year's competition.

European teams currently

buffing and puffing their way

place in July. - Chris Hewett

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### Hussain's practice falls a little short of perfection

Derek Pringle reports from Kingston England 400-8 dec v West Indies A

The rural idyll of Jamaica's Chedwin Park may be a long way from the cauldron of Sabina Park, but England will be well pleased with their efforts here yesterday, declaring their first innings at 400 for 8. Nasser Hussain, in particular, will have good cause to remember this pretty ground, with a marvellous 159 and England's first

century of the tour. Beginning the day on 131, the England vice-captain started cautiously. With this being the last occasion to find some form before the Test series begins next week, Hussain intended to spend another few

hours at the crease. However, a painful blow to the box as he missed a pull shot against Larry Williams seemed to unnerve him and soon afterwards - after seven and a half hours at the crease - he was. stumped by Ricky Hoyt, trying to launch the leg-spinner Rawl Lewis over the top.

It is exactly the kind of innings that helps win Test matches and, having shared century partnerships with Graham Thorpe and Adam Hollioake, England now have at least three batsman in good fattle.

If Hussain has a weakness when he is set, it is his running between the wickets. Quick singles appear to be taken and refused in totally arbitrary fashion, and few can afford to sit back on their heels when they are batting with him, something Hollioake later found out to his cost.

Having been in a good position the previous day when England were struggling at 30 for 3, the inexperience of the West Indies A bowlers began to show. Hollioake, a cricketer with brain as well as hrawn, sensed this and counter-at-

tacked With the strapping Nixon McLean - one of three young fast bowlers in the squad for Sabina Park - bearing down, many would have been content simply to see him off with a broad bat. Not Hollioake, who, with a stiff-armed pick up over mid-wicket and a thumping drive to the extra cover fence, made sure there was no gentle. easing into things.

In many ways Hollioake reminds one of the buccaneers that used to inhabit this region. There is the same bristling menace and, although he is

unlikely to partake of the hrew favoured by Blackbeard, a heady mixture of beer, gin, nım, sherry and gunpowder, he probably felt like one after being run out two runs short of a deserving half-century after a

mix-up with Hussain. As with most Caribbean grounds the outfield is less than flat and Hollioake clearly felt that Hussain's scything drive to backward point would not be fielded cleanly. Although no early call was audible, Hollioake set off only to see Williams get lucky with the bobble and send in a pin-point return to the bowler, Lewis, who promptly whipped of the bails. It was thrilling stuff and by far the home team's best cricket of the morning session.

Once Hussain had gone with the score on 346 for 6, it was left to Jack Russell to score runs as quickly as possible with the tail. With Russell adopting his usual quirky methods of slashing the ball past point, it was left to the taller figures of Andy Caddick and Ashley Cowan to do the hitting.

It was a gambit that proved only partially successful as Caddick miscued a lofted drive to mid-off. Cowan, however, collared Lewis for two boundaries - the second a flat six nonchalantly swatted into the charming timber pavilion at mid-wicket. Cowan then decided to try to do the same to the pacier Reon King and was bowled off an insideedge on the stroke of lunch.

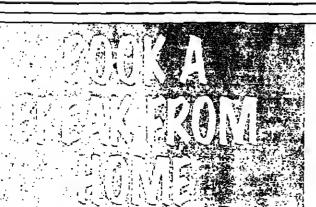
To a first-time tourist like Cowan this tour will have opened eyes and ears like no other. Nicknamed "Gromit" due to an oracular likeness to the plasticine dog. Cowans will need ear plugs when England take the field and he moves to his position at third man.

It is there that the giant speaker stacks of the sound system lie, blasting the latest hits to the school children that make up the majority of the crowd. With over 4,000 watts of bass pumping out it is not for the faint of heart. But then neither is Test cricket and that is what England turn their attentions to next.

Second day of four, West Indies A v ENGLAND - Pirst Innings (Overnight: 293 for 4) N Hussian st Hoyte b Lewis A J Holicelor run out. Caddick c Collins b Law Full (cont): 5-324, 6-346, 7-360, 8-366 Did not bat: P C R Turnel

Bowling: McLean 23-4-88-1; King 212-3-84-3; Williams 20-4-46-0; Collins 20-5-82-0; Lawis 37-13-101-3; Hinds 1-0-2-0.
WEST INDIES A: L.V Gerrick, K.F. Semple, W.W. Hinds, "R.I.C. Holder, F.L. Reifler, FR.L. Hoyte, L. R. Williams, R. N. Lawis, N. A. M. McLean, R.D. King, P. Collins.

| Imprime: N. Malerchy and T. Williams.



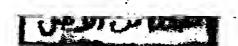
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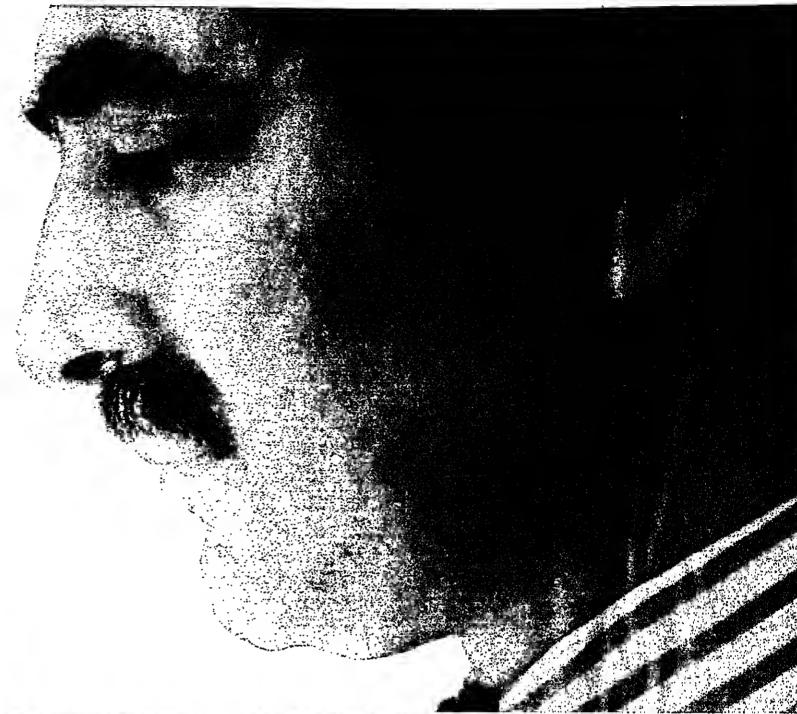
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# YOUR MONEY

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ets: Wine can be bought and sold in bond to avoid payment of excise duty and, because it is seen as a commodity, any appreciation in price avoids capital tax liabilities

# Develop a nose for some vintage investments

The case for laying down wine has become stronger as prices have soared, with the value of certain Bordeaux rising over

opean law

sain's practice?

a little short

erfection

400 per cent this decade. But prices can be volatile, and returning from Calais with a car full of bottles won't tum you into a millionaire. James Moore offers some advice to prevent any vintage portfolio going sour.

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Serious wine drinkers have been crying into their glasses and looking mournfully at their wallets. Because. like it or not, their favourite tipple has become one of the hottest investment commodities around.

Some of the gains in price of the top Bordeaux Chateaux make even the FTSE 100's brightest stars look dim by comparison.

If you had bought a 12 bottle case of Chateau Latour 1990 from wine brokers Farr Vintners in August 1991, for example, you would have paid £376. The same case in August 1997 would have cost £2,000 from the

same merchant, an increase of 432 per cent.

Gains of 300 and 400 per cent over the same period are common for the top 10 investment wines from Bordeaux, such as Chateaux Latour, Lafite, Margaux, Mouton-Rothschild and Petrus from top-rated vintages. Returns at auctions have been even more spectacular.

In recent years the price of fine red Bordeaux, where the majority of "investment" wines are made, has shot up. Other investment wines, such as vintage Port, fine red and white Burgundies. Sauternes and one or two top names from the New World. have also seen impressive price rises following their release on to the market.

Aside from the potential returns, one of the advantages of investing in wine is that it can be bought and sold in bond to avoid payment of excise duty and, because it is seen as a commodity and huving is a commercial transaction, any appreciation in price avoids liability to capital gains tax.

This has not gone unnoticed by the professional money men and some have gone so far as to set up firms with the accent on selling wines on

the back of their investment potential as much as their drinking quality.

Gary Boom, a former currency broker, is now chairman of wine hroker Bordeaux Index. He says: "Taking the compounded returns each year since 1978, the Dow Jones Index would give you 14 per cent, the FTSE 100, 12 per cent but the Decenter magazine index of auction

prices of the top 59 Bordeaux wines would give you around 17 per cent." He thinks prices will continue to rise and the opening up of new markets for the best wines will add fuel to the fire. "I'm very bullish about prospects.

I still believe that fine wine is underpriced. Say wine catches on in China, the top producers can't increase production and every time a bottle is drunk that is one less on the market. It also has an archaic system of pricing and distribution - when that gets sorted out prices will rise."

The independent financial advisers. Quest Bureaux Financial Planning, set up a sister company. Quest Fine Wine Investments, to cater for investors willing to sink serious money into a bit of what they

Marjorie Henry, the company's

marketing director, says: "Our interest in fine wines came from experience of clients with portfolios of

"The people who are approaching us are looking to have wine as part of a portfolio. It is a good long-term investment." This led to the launch of the new company in 1995, followed by the launch of an internet service at the end of last year.

products.

She says the company is run on the principles of best advice like Quest Bureaux Financial Planning, though the wine broker is not regulated by the Personal Investment Authority because the sale of wine is a commercial transaction and outside the scope of the Financial Services Act, which covers most investment

But there are pitfalls. As with any investment, the price of wine can fail as well as rise, and there can be considerable volatility in price.

Buyers should also take care to get a certificate of ownership and to ensure that each individual case bought is marked with their name and If this is not done, in the event that

the company from which the wine was purchased collapses, it can be diffi-

cult to establish ownership. Thousands of pounds could he lost.

stored correctly, in a dark cellar at a constant cool temperature, and to take advice. Gaylene Thompson, a wine trader at Farr Vintners, says: "When you

It also pays to ensure the wine is

look at the numbers it is hard to argue but I would advise caution. "You have to realise that the

price of wine can go down as well as up. You have to stick to the blue chip wines from good vintages and know what you are doing - after all. I certainly wouldn't start investing in shares without any knowledge."

Simon Woods, editor of Which? Wine Guide, says the really spectacular gains have come to an end for the present.

The rushes of blood are now finished and things have got more sensible, prices have stabilised," Mr Woods says. "The gains are likely to be more long term now."

The boom has been fuelled by increasing interest in fine wines from the newly enriched in the "tiger economies" of south-east Asia, where recent events will have priced buyers

out of the market for a while. But there are still good reasons why prices will rise rather than fall. There was a run of poor vintages in the early 1990s in Bordeaux, Stocks

of the great vintages from the 1980s, such as 1982, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989 and 1990, are now thin on the ground and new vintages such as 1995 and 1996 have been released at ever higher prices.

The wine producers are also waking up to the money being made from their products and have increased prices at release accordingly.

Mr Boom says in the long run he is optimistic that the prices of top wines will continue to surge forward in price.

He adds: "If you get a portfolio of the top wines you will do very well. Even if the price does go down you can always drink it. You couldn't do that with a share."

As for wine drinkers, some of them have been catching on. Ms Henry says: "A lot of people are looking to build up their cellars, their interest is in wine for drinking." These people buy more than they nced and sell the excess to fund their purchases. "This means it is possible to get their wines for drinking for free so they can drink the very

INSIDE

MINDSOR

Ski posters pick up speed DAVIS

**EMU lays** euro eggs

SLADE **Blood money** 

on a grant

Rivals gain on Ford 12/FIONA

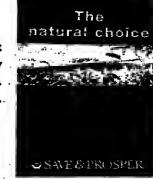
BRANDHORST Growing room

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### Threshold test for New Labour

**CLIFFORD GERMAN** 

Affluence testing is the latest Half a century later, howexample of New Labourever, means testing is seeking speak to edge its way into the to return as a way of reducing the soaring cost of welfare lexicon, but if there is meant spending. How much easier to be any difference between it would be, the argument affluence testing in the 21st century and the means testruns, to channel benefits to ing which left such deep scars where they are most needed by the really poor if hetterin the consciousness of the working class in the inter-war off people were not automatically eligible to claim years, it has yet to emerge.

If affluence testing means anything different it should It is an insidious argument signify that the threshold will hut the disadvantages are as apply at a higher level and great now as they were in the impact on people who con-Thirties. The higher the sider themselves middle rather starting point for withholding than working class. But given benefits, the less money the progressive inflation of would be saved but the lower the threshold, the more language since the Thirties, it seems reasonable to assume thrifty people who had built up savings and income from that affluence and means testing are really the same thing. interest and dividends would be penalised.

The really rich might not

really suffer if the state pen-

sion was withheld from every-

one with assets of half a

million and an income of

the line be drawn, and should

full benefits to the really

poor, nothing to the really

rich and clawing back part of

of middle-income earners?

That would be the best way

of ensuring the resentment of

The means test was introduced by the National Government in 1931 to decide whether families who were no longer eligible for unemployment benefit could claim additional henefits £50,000. But where should from public funds. As Brewers Encyclopedia says, "the it be a hard and fast line or resulting inquisition was a graduated scale, paying much resented [because] it took account of any earnings by members of the household payment to the vast majority and all monetary assets and

penalised the provident". Means testing was abolished after the Second World War and successive governments have stuck to the principle that if they are old, out of work, have children or are disabled, the well-off are just as entitled to benefits as the poor, and everyone is spared the indignity of baving their personal finances subjected to public scrutiny.

MONEY MAKEOVER

# Plan to retire with an easy conscience

Name: Yvonne Willmott

Age: 51 Status: Divorced, with two grown-up children, aged 24 and 26.

Occupation: Civil servant and

The problem: Yvonne knows that if she is to get the best from her savings the time has come to put her personal finances under the microscope. Planning for a secure retirement is high on her list of priorities.

A qualified nurse, now working as a civil servant, Yvonne does have the benefit of a sizeable salary of £40,000 a year, which means she can put aside a reasonable amount each month. Her fixed outgoings account for about half her net monthly income, in addition to which she needs to pay for the running of her car, as well as holidays, clothes and other social expenditure.

Last year she bought a new home for £70,000 with a £47,000 interest-only mortgage over 10 years from Bradford & Bingley. She was offered a discounted rate, 1.5 per cent below the standard variable rate for the first five years. She was advised to set up a personal equity plan (PEP) as a repayment vehicle for the loan and is presently putting £287 a month into a Schroder UK also has a tax-exempt special savings account (Tessa) and a number of endowment policies.

the maximum number of Yvonne estimates she can salt away about £500 a month to help huild up her retirement Means testing has already nest-egg and, with a permanent made a comeback in assessing the eligibility of old peocontract of employment, she ple to have their long-term expects to be able to continue with this level of saving until she care hills paid, and it has not proved popular or fair. It is

The adviser: Graham Bates of unlikely to win many friends Bates & Partners. Capital to realise about £1,800. The if it is applied more widely.

House, 151, Otley Old Road, Leeds, LS16 6HN. Telephone: 0113-2955955.

The advice: The PEP fund she has selected concentrates on capital growth from investment in smaller and medium-sized companies. It has an excellent track record, and achieved a total return of 131.78 per cent over the five years to last November. It would make sense for her to increase her plan contrihution up to £500 a month, the maximum an individual can put into a PEP in each tax year.

Although PEP investments will no longer be available after April 1999, it will still be possible to put up to £5,000 a year into an unit-linked Individual Savings Account (ISA) and her mortgage is less than the proposed lifetime limit of £50,000 for investment in an ISA.

Yvonne does have several other investments already in place, including a secondgeneration Tessa with Nationwide. This is a secure investment and, although the return on capital is likely to be conservative, the tax concession is well worth having, bearing in mind Yvonne's status as a higher rate taxpaver.

She also has about £2,000 in a Postal Account with Nationwide and a fixed-term bond. also for about £2,000, due to Enterprise Unit Trust PEP. She. mature next month. For everyday purposes she keeps a minimum balance of about £200 in a current account with Midland

> Some time ago Yvonne took out four separate endowment savings plans with the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, to which she contributes £115 each month. One of these policies is due to mature in just over five years and is expected



Low-risk returns: A with-profits bond could protect Yvonne Willmott from the stock markets' volatility

her outh pirthday and show projected benefits of £8,900.

She would like to keep a few thousand available for ready access in case the need arises to help out either of her two children. In fact, later this year she is expecting repayment of £2.000 which she lent her daughter for a trip to New Zealand and one of her objectives is to invest this money for growth.

Although her primary objective is for capital growth now, she does feel that once she has retired it would be nice to henefit from some investment income to help top up her pension. In particular, she needs to know what to do with the £4,000 in capital she will have when her daughter has repaid the loan and the Nationwide bond matures. And if she decides to top up her PEP to £500 a month this will still leave £213

available for regular savings. She is happy to take a halanced risk approach but she has

other three mature just before a strong interest in ethical matters and would not be comfortable investing in either individual companies or funds unless they could demonstrate

an ethical approach. Given the sums involved and the relatively short period until retirement, one sensible option would he to invest the £4,000 in a low-risk with-profits bond where it will not be exposed to the day-to-day vulatility of the stock market but there is a good chance the capital will perform better than if it is left languishing in a deposit account. It will also be more tax-efficient as there is no personal liability to hasic income tax and higher-rate taxpayers can take withdrawals of up to 5 per cent a year without

triggering additional tax. Priends Provident, a company well-known for its Quaker roots and ethical investments, has a with-profits fund worth booking at. The declared annual in addition to which there is payments to her FSAVC, she is

potential for a terminal bonus after five years. When looking for the right home for Yvonne's regular monthly savings, the Credit Suisse Fellowship Trust is a well-established ethical fund, which over 10 years has

grown by 153.05 per cent. Making sure she has adequate pension is also high on her list of priorities. Until six months ago she was a member of the NHS pension scheme but is now in the process of switching to the Principal Civil Service Pension Fund. This involves no penalties and means that Yvonne will have to contribute only 1.5 per cent of her annual salary instead of 6 per cent with the NHS scheme,

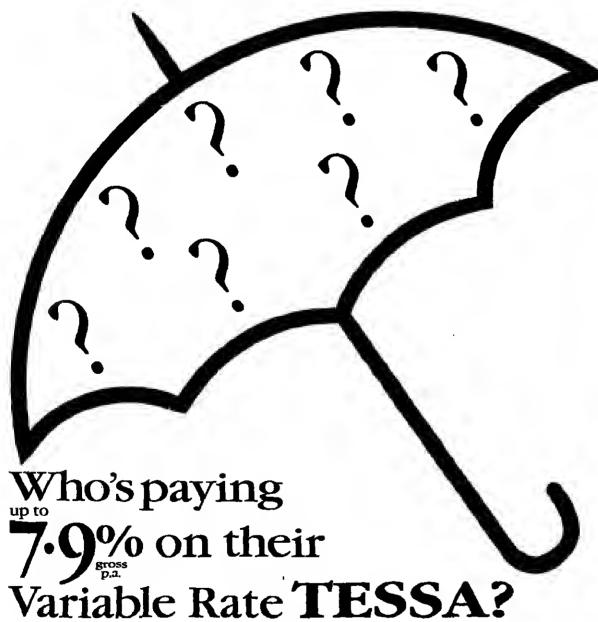
She does not have enough years of service left to get a maximum pension and, with this in mind, she has already started a free-standing additional voluntary contribution (FSAVC) plan with Friends Provident. Although she has been advised bonus is currently 6.5 per cent. to make regular monthly

likely to fare better by adding single contributions as and when spare cash is available.

Finally, Yvonne wonders if she should try to sell an endowment policy she took out with Scottish Amicable five years ago. Unfortunately, it is a 25-year policy and has not heen in place long enough for this to be an option. The monthly payment of £60 is not a problem and, since she would lose out by simply encashing the policy, the best course is to keep

the plan going.
With everything considered she should end up with a good spread of investments helping to pay off her mortgage and providing a nest egg for a happy and comfortable retirement.

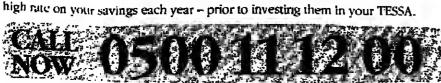
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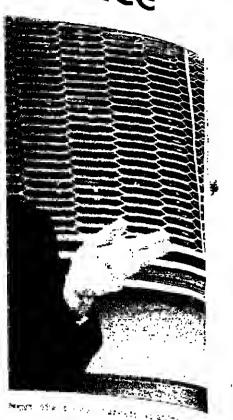
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RST YEAR

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# On piste or on poster, skiing is expensive

Feeling nostalgic about your skiing holiday? You can always buy a poster, says John Windsor - but it will cost you a lot more than a week in the

Collectables of the future are notoriously difficult to spot, but whenever one emerges it seems obvious in retrospect. Christie's South Kensington is holding its first auction dedicated to ski posters on 6 February been scattered in South Ken's thrice yearly sales of 19th and 20th century posters. Even Japanese buyers have

been asking for condition reports on the posters. They are fascinated by British period style. It was the intrepid British middle class that founded the Swiss skiing industry in the last century. Winter tourism in the Alps is said to have gained popularity in 1864, when the owner of the Kulm hotel in St Moritz invited a group of British summer holidaymakers for a free holiday in January, promising them a month of sun. Klosters, now a favourite of the Royals, welcomed its first winter sports enthusiasts in 1904 and Murren, in the Jungfrau region, became the birthplace of the ski package boliday in 1910, when a British Methodist minister, Henry Lunn, founded the British Public Schools Alpine Sports Club and persuaded hotels there to open in the winter.

It all came to an end in 1929, when the stock market crashed, But now that the Brits are once and Italian artwork. again back in the money they want more ski holidays - and more ski posters as souvenirs.

South Ken auctioneer

market for ski posters was perking up at last year's general poster auctions. He got on the phone to dealers and collectors and assembled 241 ski posters dating from 1895 to 1970 for the forthcoming first dedicated sale. Estimates range from £200 to £5,000.

So far, this is a relatively raw market, fuelled by nostalgic holiday skiers - the sort with Alpine chalets who want a colourful poster or two for their architect-designed kitchen. It remains to be seen whether they will absorb 241 posters in one go. However, astute promotion by (10.30am). Hitherto, they have a hig London auctioneer tends to be self-fulfilling.

Until more discerning collector-investors enter the hidding in earnest, prices will remain unsettled. You might pick up an unrecognised rarity cheaply - or become embroiled in an expensive salcroom duel between hidders who are madkeen to own a decorative old poster of their favourite resort, unaware that it is relatively common.

Nevertheless, the criteria of what makes a ski poster valuable are emerging. To invest, look for pre-war posters with obvious period flavour - that is, those showing people with period hairstyles, clothes and skis.

names are already sought after by poster collectors have added value. By buying these, you can rely on the support of an established collectors' market that is forcing up prices for posters that qualify as arr. Even the film poster market, hot for stars' names and sex-appeal, has developed an eye for French

For example, the colourful posters of the French Art Deco artist Roger Broders are already sought after, whether or not Richard Barclay noticed that the they show skiing. In the Twen-



Flying high: Tamagno's Chamonix poster is estimated at £2,500-£3,500. Digelmann's bunny - just a furry freak?

Those by artists whose ties and Thirties he was commissioned by the Paris Lyon Mediterranean Railway (PLM) to help lure English-speaking tourists to French ski resorts.

> His PLM colour lithograph Winter Sports in the French Alps of about 1930, which is cited in collectors' guides to posters, is estimated £1,200-£1.600 in the forthcoming sale. It has period people, including a young woman skier with late Twenties-style permanent-wave hair carrying old-fashioned wooden skis and, in the background, an old-fashioned puff-

puff ski railway, ensuring cross- South Ken have estimated his over interest from railway poster collectors. One sold for sale in 1994 and last October one was bid up to a whopping £2,070. How many bidders still want one? And how many more copies are awaiting consignment to auction by eager profittakers? In a new market like this, you can never tell. But this

poster will always be a classic. Similarly, the work of Franof death uncertain) is estab-

turn of the century PLM poster for the Chamonix winter sports £1.320 at a South Ken poster at £2,500-£3,500, It shows, suspended precariously in midair, a daredevil skiing couple in white winter woollies, she with bonnet and long skirt, both without ski poles. What might have happened to them is a good talking point that adds value. In the June sale last year, one fetched an astonishing £4.830 against an estimate of cisco Tamagno (born 1851, date £1,800-£2,200. This one is in

one, somewhere, could soon be kicking themselves.

Horitz

And do you fancy a gamble on the ski bunny? Alex Diggelmann's poster of about 1950 shows St Montz's emblematic rabbit haring down the piste. It is estimated £500-£700, indicating that the auctioneers consider last October's high price for one - £2,070 despite creasing - was a furry freak. The trouble with rabbits is they breed.

Christie's South Kensington, 85 better condition - but will it be Old Brompton Road, London lishing a healthy track record. fought over as fiercely? Some- SW7 (0171-581 7611).

### Sites that make filing your return less taxing



ROBIN AMLÖT

INTERNET INVESTOR

Only seven days to go before the deadline so now would be a good time to get serious about your tax return if you have not already done so.

To save yourself paying the tax man any more than you really have to, you should make sure of three things by this time next week: that your tax return is filed; that your tax liability for 1996/97 is paid in full and that your first payment on account for 1997/98 is paid. The trick, I am told, is to stop thinking of it as "your"

money. If you have been putting off and putting off and putting off tackling your return because of its complexity, you may take some consolation from being in the company of one of the greatest minds of all time. Even Albert Einstein claimed: "The hardest thing in the world to understand is indidn't have the benefit of the

web for assistance. My first port of call was the Chartered Institute of Taxation's website. The institute has over 10,000 members who are all qualified tax practitioners.

The site explains selfassessment in detail and has regularly updated tax tips. For those suffering severe sense of humour failure over self-assessment, the instirute's website may provide a small lift with its collection about tax.

red Accountants also has a website which includes a geographical directory of members to belp you find an accountant near you.

Elsewhere on the web you will find Tax Fix, set up specifically to help people with their self-assessment forms. Tax Fix is one of a handful of organisations to gain Inland Revenue approval to lodge clients' tax returns electronically and get acceptance - or queries within 48 hours.

This promised response time has become more of a factor now than it might have been a couple of months ago!

The Inland Revenue does have its own explanatory site to assist you, hosted by Hector the friendly taxman, an oxymoron memorably described as a moonlighting Home Pride flour grader with a Hitler mous-However, it could be well

worth your while checking out the frequently asked questions (FAQs) on Hector's site to make sure that you are not making any of the common mistakes which are highlighted.

Remember, if you send your tax return in but it is wrong and is returned to you, you need to make the correction and get the form back to the Inland Revenue by the deadline or face the automatic fine. Better to get it right first time.

Of course, you are not required to use the services of an accountant or a tax adviser to tackle your tax return. If you are feeling up to it yourself there are still plenty of ways in which you make your own life easier.

There are a number of software programmes which come tax!" But Einstein can help you fill in your return and work out what you need to pay.

You can order TaxCalc from Which Software and Intuit's QuickTax add-on through the web hut if you feel the urge to buckle down and get on with the job straight away you could immediately download Smart-Tax from the web, paying with your credit card.

In the future, paying your tax is likely to involve downloading a form from the Inland Revenue website. of jokes and quotations filling it in on screen, attaching a digital signature The Institute of Char- and e-mailing it back to the taxman together with navment details.

In fact, this is technically possible now. The government began testing the use of digital signatures in December for people wanting to register as self-employed.

One final thought - does self assessment mean the United Kingdom will become a land of untold wealth? After all, it was John Maynard Keynes who said that: "The avoidance of taxes is the only pursuit that still carries any reward."

Chartered Institute of Tixation: www.tax.org.uk Institute of Chartered .Accountants: www.icaew.co.uk TaxFix: www.taxfix.co.uk

Inland Revenue: www.open.gov.uk/inrev/sa TaxCalc: www.idp.co.uk QuickTax: www.intuit.co.uk

SmartTax www.smarttax.co.uk

# A Direct Line to cheaper pension provision?

Direct Line, the bargain basement insurer, this week presented itself as the new saviour of the nation's retirement incomes as it launched a no-nonsense pension. Such is its clout that it was immediately attacked by the other pretender to that role, Virgin Direct. Andrew Verity reports.

It very nearly goes without saying: none of us saves enough to be comfortable in retirement. Nevertheless. Direct Line, the downmarket direct insurer. has commissioned a survey to tell us why. The sobering facts are worth repeating.

According to the Mori survey of more than 1,000 adults, over half of us are honest enough to admit we have no idea how much money is in our pension fund. On average, we reckon we will get a pension income of £852 a month. In fact, if things stay as they are, we will get an average of just £200; perilously close to the

Direct Line's life insurance wing

accuses the bewildered British public expensive, with charges cating up as of being in a state of "guilty inertia". executive, Duncan Mackechnie, says: "There is a real need to bridge the gap between people's expectations for their retirement and the pessimism which currently exists about the state of current pension provision."

The state of pension saving is dire, says the survey, and we're all a bit ignorant about it. But should we follow the next conclusion, that Direct Line can provide the solution?

The company is famous for its shake-up of motor insurance. Because motor insurance is compulsory, costs can be cut by eliminating the "middleman", the insurance broker, and appealing straight to the public through friendly TV ads. In the early 1990s, the company was able to undercut other insurers to such an extent that the whole market was forced to follow. Few companies now take a hig profit from motor insurance.

Direct Line evidently believes the same can be done to the pensions market. The Government wants low-cost, private schemes for everyone. Personal pensions have, it says, been much too

much as a third of contributions. This knowing what is needed but constantly is because the provider has to cover as "reduced allocation"). Virgin's £2 procrastinating because of other fin- commissions to the sales people in the a month is easier to understand. Not ancial pressures. The company's chief middle who sell them (which have risen only that, says Virgin. "Direct Line's tomers have validly protested in the years).

Direct Line helieves it can overcome our inertia by bringing out a straightforward, no-nonsense pension. By appealing directly to consumers, it does not have to pay commission. So its products will be cheaper.

The thetoric has a familiar ring: very similar to that of Tesco's, Virgin. Legal & General, Marks & Spencer. Eagle Star and Scottish Widows, who have all launched "direct" pensions in the last two years. Is Direct Line doing anything new?

At first it looks very cheap. Direct Line's new customers get charged 1 per cent of their fund per year. They can invest in a fund that tracks the FTSE 100 - or just put their money on deposit. Payments can be by cheque or direct dehit. Easy.

Well, not quite. Sensing heavyweight competition, rivals such as Virgin and Legal & General have rushed out statements insisting their pensions are cheaper. Virgin seizes on an extru fee. Only 98 per cent of every managers never do as well as the index

invested (a common practice known by up to 60 per cent in the past five limits are restrictive. You have to invest at least £75 a month. With Virgin, invest what you like, when you like as long as it's £50 or more," a statement from Virgin said.

Are Virgin being, as the slogan says, Virgin Direct? Well, not quite. If £50 was invested with Virgin, its charges would be £2 plus a 1 per cent fund management charge - or 5 per cent of your investment. Considering Virgin says it is appealing to people with all levels of income, this is not all that

Because it charges by percentage, Direct Line's pension is cheaper for smaller contributions. At £75 a month, its charges amount to 3 per cent. Virgin's are a fifth higher, at 3.7 per cent.

The bickering over cheaper pensious also masks a more important dehate. Virgin and Direct Line are cheap partly because they offer a cheap way of investing their customers' pension savings. Just stick it in a fund which tracks the FTSE 100 index, they say. Over the long term, active fund

pound at First Direct will, in effect, be - and they are more expensive, so the

Unfortunately, some of these arguments may be wearing thin. Cussavings, much of which goes to the extravagant salaries paid to fund managers, is not value for money. Between October 1995 and September 1997, less than one third of UK unit trusts got more from their investments than a fund tracking the FTSE 100. But in the last quarter of last year, nearly half did just as well, according to figures from HSBC Asset Management.

According to received wisdom, active fund managers will do hetter than tracker funds in a bear market. And over the long term, investment performance can have a much greater effect on the size of a pension fund than charges will. Cheaper, in other words, may not always mean better.

The Independent has published a free 26-page guide to pension planning, written by Nic Cicutti, personal finance editor. The guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, discusses what kind of pension you may need, and how to find it. It is available by calling 0800 776666. Or fill in the coupon on page 6.

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### **BRIAN TORA**

### A golden opportunity

commodity prices have been behaving recently? If you are looking for a real victim of Asian contagion, look no further than copper, gold and oil. Many of the world's raw materials are flat on their hack, as traders and speculators try to second-guess the effect of a contracting market in the fast-growing Pacific Rim. I wonder if they have got it quite right.

to the direction in some commodities prices heing governed by demand from China. A fast-growing emerging economy like that of the Chinese can have a massive effect upon demand for raw materials. Growth in the early stages tends to be very rapid, sucking in commodities and building a massive trade imbalance as a consequence.

But as an economy matures, it does not mean demand disappears. It is the growth rate that slows. Commodities, naturally, are notoriously vulnerable to supply and demand. In part this reflects the cost of extraction.

Just now oil is also languishing at the bottom of its trading range. This is more a reflection on short selling than a sudden evaporation of demand, or knowledge that Iraqi oil will once again flood on to the market. The same can be said of copper.

It is too early for the real effects of the turmoil in the Far East to be reflected on the commodity exchanges. Indeed, the London Metal Exchange inventory numbers suggest demand is stable, so it has to be speculation a crisis the current malaise. If the effect on world trade is not as and Futures Authority.

Have you noticed the way great as is feared, we might see a sharp recovery in commodity prices as production fails to keep up with demand.

This is certainly what Mercury's World Mining Trust is betting upon. They recently requested shareholder permission to buy back their shares, believing a 15 per cent discount to net assets is too great.

I am still concerned that the problems in the Far East We have had to get used are too little appreciated here, but one area where there may have been a over-resiction is commodities. Longer term, demand must grow. Zinc had a sharp hounce

last year as China adjusted its position, having misread the situation earlier. Some of the gain has been handed back but that is because traders are back in control. We also saw how iron ore surged as China restructured its steel industry. switching to higher quality imported ore.

With a whole raft of companies, led by mining giant RTZ, announcing share buyback programmes and little new equity being raised at present, the mining market looks near the nadir of its fortunes. Things may still get worse, but this is one area where the reaction has already taken place. If a trade war does not erupt as a consequence of cheap imports from the Far East, now could be the bargain base-

ment buying opportunity. Brian Tora is chairman of the Greig Middleton Investment Strategy Committee. Greig Middleton is a member of the will develop that accounts for London Stock Exchange and regulated by the Securities

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neturns but may also involve a higher degree of risk. The Government has announced that from 1999 lax advantaged schemes, such as PEPs and TESSAs, will be replaced with a new Individual Savings Account (ISA). Details of the ISA are currently subject to consultation and the final form is not yet known.



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### UNDERSTANDING THE STOCK MARKET

# The benefit of pooling your resources in a trust

"When is a trust not a trust?" sounds like tunds are pooled and divided into a range from the view that there is an overone of those riddles which pop out of crackers at Chrisimas. However, it is not supposed to be a frivulous question. The the name of an independent trustee (hence answer is: "When it is an investment

An investment trust is, in fact, a limited stock market. They came into being in the world's stock markets,

newcomers. The first one was launched in cent below their NAV. 1931 to offer investors an "instant portfolio"

number of units in proportion to their investments. The investments are held in

Units in an unit trust are bought and sold by the unit trust company's managers, at company whose shares are quoted on the - a price which is extremely close to the value of the shares represented by the units. On last century as a means of taising capital the other hand, the price of a share in an for pioneering investment overseas. Over investment trust is determined by its supply the years their investment outlook has and demand on the stock market. Conseqchanged and today they concentrate on uently, its price may bear little relationship forming portfolios of shares quoted on the not he net asset value (NAV) that it represents. Investment trust shares on By comparison, unit trusts are relative—average are currently selling amound 15 per

There are many explanations as to why of shares. The concept is simple, Investors' investment trusts sell at a discount. These emphasises that as investment trusts nowest for the current cycle and reinvesting

supply, to the opinion that it reflects the cost of selling the portfulio. Given all the variables that determine the price of a trust's shares – supply and demand: management expertise and the view of the market in which the trust invests - it is not surprising

that NAVs and prices do not coincide. It will come as no surprise to learn that for many years a fierce battle has been raging between the proponents of unit trusts and investment trusts. The Association of Unit Trust and Investment Funds' view is that as the prices of investment trusts are determined by market forces, they are riskier than unit trusts.

On the other hand, the Association of

generally sell at a discount to the NAVs, in the same trust when he judges that its investors obtain more shares for their money. They also point out that the charges are less than an unit trust's. Furthermore, whereas an unit-trust manager has to sell the underlying shares when unitholders want to eash in their units, an investment trust does not and, therefore, can take a longer-term investment strategy

compared to an unit-trust manager. Over the last 20 to 30 years, investment Trust discounts have been in the 4 to 25 per cent range. As opposed to being a "probtem" in a fundamental sense, it can, in tact. be a worthwhile advantage to investors. A smart and active investor can make money by buying at a relatively wide discount, self-Investment Trust Companies (AITC) ing when the discount has reached its nar-

to go. In fact, the discount can be rather like an everlasting escalator - if you are prepared to back your judgement and to monitor your shares carefully.

If you are a long-term investor looking to build-up capital, it is well worth considering an investment trust for either a lump sum investment or regular savings plan. The golden rules are:

· Do not chose a trust for its discount make sure that you like the trust's policy. its performance and its management.

· Do not sell shares just because the discount has narrowed - the change may reflect improved quality in the trust and you may do far better to hang on for an even better performance.

 Look at the assets. The discount tells discount has gone as far out as it is going you how much the market undervalues the company's assets. If there is a big discount to a portfolio of good quality listed shares. you could be on to a winner - though rest assured, you are unlikely to be alone in your discovery. On the other hand, if the discount is because of the poor quality of the portfelio, the shares could seriously damage your wealth.

· Finally, do not demonise the discount. Except for the minority of active investors who are looking to trade on discount movement, the trust's share price, total return and asset growth are more important.

For an introduction pack to investment trusts and performance information, selephone AITC on 0171-431 5222



### THE JONATHAN DAVIS

# European futures

Is it time for investors to start trying. UBS, the Swiss-owned broker and to wrap their minds around the possible investment consequences of European monetary union (EMU)? Until now, it has been relatively easy to ignore the issue, oo two main grounds; the doubts over whether monetary union would happen at all: and the knowledge that Britain, even uoder a Europhile Labour Government, will not be a member at least until the next election.

Both assumptions are no longer so easily made. It is oow widely accepted that monetary union will go ahead on I January next year. Whatever your views about the wisdom of the undertaking, or the probability of its success. there is no longer any practical reason for pretending that it woo't happen.

And while the Government has at last set out its formal position on the issue, saving it won't join before the next election, do not be misled into thicking that the UK will not be affected. It is clear that economic policy is going to be shaped in a way that leaves Britain in a position to become a member relatively soon after launch - and to a large extent that means behaving as if we were already in it. Interest rates, taxes and the exchange rate are all going to be treated with more than half an eye on what is happening in the rest of Europe.

There is a whole series of possible effects for investors, some more easily predictable than others. I am grateful to Mark Hi wdle, a market strategist at

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investment bank, for a lucid guide through the thickets. In the currency and bond markets, the impact of EMU has already been largely anticipated. Bond yields in all the main European countries have moved progressively closer together. Ooce monetary union is complete, not only will currency risks within Europe be eliminated but one can safely expect bond yields to remain clustered in a fairly narrow range.

When it comes to stock markets, it is helpful to distinguish between the effect (1) on company profitability; and (2) on lovestor behaviour and preferences, Mark Howdle's view, with which I agree, is that monetary union is likely to be a powerful further catalyst in changing the way that European companies are run and financed. There will be more focus on delivering shareholder value, greater accountability and a loosening of the cosy ties between managers and the banks (and governments) which have provided the bulk of their capital over the years. Tax rates are also likely to converge. There will also be a procession of new companies raising capital from the equity markets. either as privatisations or new issues.

The treod towards industry consolidation to several sectors will continue. UBS believes banks, defence. engineering, food retailing, paper and telecoms are the sectors with the



They imply higher rates of return on assets, more investor-focused managements, lower tax rates and better use of balance sheets to leverage returns. This is not a new trend, in the sense that European stock markets have been an attractive source of returns for some time. The average unit trust invested in Europe has outperformed all but one other sector over both three and five years, despite indifferent European economic growth. Falling interest rates have been one big factor in driving up stock market vuluations in Europe. But while that effeet may now be coming to an end, the one-off gain from structural change within companies and industries is set to continue. It is logical to expect it to

European portfolios tend to be both parochial and bond- rather than equitydominated. The shares they own reflect the balance of their country's industry: disproportionate numbers of engineering companies in Germany, lots of energy companies in Holland and so on. Will that too change once monetary union takes place? Yes, for sure.

The obvious result will be for in-

itive for most European stock markets. geographically, have a larger equity component and more closely mirror the industrial character of Europe, rather than their own national markets. That is positive for shares as a class. How quickly will change happen? It could take years. For UK institutions, the pressure to diversify will also be there. but the equity component of the average pension fund may full rather than rise. The big drug, oil and financial companies which dominate the UK market are likely to be much jo

The bottom line is that the impact of otonetary union on both European companies and markets could be profound. As my chart shows, returns from European stock markets have started to converge in recent years. But the reaccelerate once monetary union occurs. turns within sectors, viewed from an At the moment, most investment in- all-Europe perspective, are as wide as stitutions across Europe invest pre- ever, It means, suggests Mark Howdle. dominantly in their own local markets. That whereas in the past the hig decisions to get right about investing in Europe have been which country to buy, in future the biggest returns will come from finding the most attractive companies within each industry sector in Europe.

> That feels right to me. Provided that monetary union works as hoped (and that does remain a hig if), the prospect of further structural change should mean Europe remains an attractive

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# The dangers of cashing in on legal drugs

The NUS is warning hard-pressed students against responding to ads offering quick and easy cash for taking part in drug trials. Paul Slade

Small ads in the back of magazines such as Private Eye. Fortean Times and the Big Issue promise payments of up to £125 a day for subjects used to test the safety and efficiency of new prescription drugs. They refer to trials not only in the UK hut world-wide.

The advertisers are not the clinics carrying out the trials. hut companies hoping to sell people who reply a list of clinics to contact. For many respondents, the only alternative may be bar or restaurant work was that people were not John Voos paying little more than £3 an revealing the truth about other avernight stays.

hour and the offers sound seductive.

The information sent out by one advertiser. Phase II Services, says: "As it is such a quick and casy way to raise a an NUS spokeswoman says. large lump sum of money in a few days, many volunteers go back time and time again, when they need money for a holiday. to see them through Christmas. to pay off loans and overdrafts or just to help them get through their next term at college."

The National Union of Students (NUS) says the danger arises less from the trials themselves, which may be perfectly legitimate, but from people anxious to earn the cash involved lying in order to take part. This is believed to be the cause

of two student deaths in 1985. What appeared to be happening in the mid-Eighties

medication they were taking or possible risk factors to the clinical practitioners when they were taking part in tests, because they wanted the money." "We feel there shouldn't be a significant financial inducement. We really don't want people to be putting their lives at risk for the sake of money.

We're very aware of people trying to promote this to students. I think they target anybody who wants money, and students will always fall into that category. Some companies do promote it as money for

Phase II's literature claims one volunteer recently collected £5,000 plus air fare for a sixweek trial in Germany. Another company selling the lists, LFC of Great Yarmouth, mentions and what compensation may be a fee of £1.200 for three available if anything goes

Richard Ley of the Association of British Pharmaceutical Companies, which represents the drug manufacturers who must carry out these trials, says: "Our guidelines state that, while volunteers may be rewarded in cash or in kind, the amount should be reasonable. Payment of large amounts is discouraged, for £10 a copy. because we don't want people volunteering repeatedly for

experiments for financial gain. "Clearly, if money's being offered, it's always going to be part of the equation, but it's not something you should be doing because you're short of cash."

UK trials are policed by independent Ethical Review Boards which must approve them for safety. Trial subjects must also be told what the trial is for, what the risks might be

One of the NUS's main concerns is trials abroad, where visitors from the UK may find any problems which arise are far more difficult to sort out. Phase II's directory lists "over 100 clinics around the world which are currently recruiting", only 15 of which are in the UK Phase II sells its own directory

Lesley Newson, director of clinical trials unit in Plymouth, says: "We have got a couple of volunteers who got our number from one of these lists, but we don't have anything to do with the companies producing them. I don't know whether the people placing these ads are vetting the organisations, and I don't know

numbers and addresses they put on their lists." One Private Eye advertiser distributing the LFC list admits

he has no idea how the list is put together, hut simply sends out the list as it stands. Phase II Services bosses Nicholas Ledger and Robert Coates could not be reached.

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Continuing cutbacks in state funding mean all but a tiny handful of students now bave to earn some kind of outside income to support their studies. A recent survey by the GMB found that one in three students is missing lectures hecause of part-time work.

Mr Ley is also concerned at ads for trials being aimed particularly at groups such as students or the unemployed, who may be desperate for cash. "That doesn't mean unemployed people and students can't be accepted for trials, but how they choose the telephone companies shouldn't he targeting all their information and promotional stuff at them," he

The sheer range of mortgages on offer, repayment, endowment, interest-only, fixed rate, variable rate, discounted rate, cashback, fixed-term and flexible, can be very confusing. The Independent has pub-

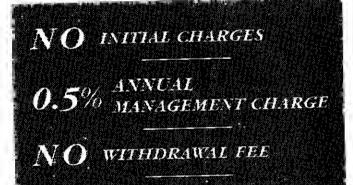
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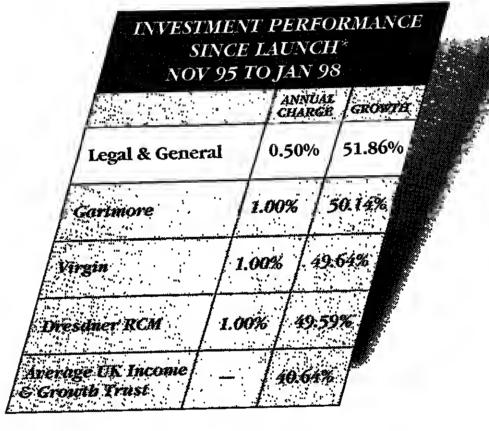


market, so it reduces the risk of being over-exposed to shares which under-perform and lessen your return. In fact, a lump sum of £6,000 invested in the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP at launch would now be worth £9,111\* compared to just £8,438\* in the average UK Income & Growth Trust.

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# Try these books for size

There's no shortage of authors willing to offer fool-proof plans for making money. But a good gulde on basic investments or pension planning can be harder to find. lain Morse scans the shelves to pick the

Some oew year resolutions are barder to keep than others, but at least you can console yourself about not losing any weight with a drink and cigarette. If your list included sorting out your financial planning priorities there is still time for affirmative action.

One place to start is by educating yourself on the subject. Bookshop shelves groan with titles. If you are looking for an eotry-level guide to financial planning, try Jooquil Lowe's Be Your Own Financial Adviser. One of a series published by the Consumers' Associatioo, this deserves an award for its use of plain English and commonsense approach.

Suitable for all ages, it includes chapters on main areas and equities is given useful ticated way to invest "turns out options using "straddling and of financial planning including mortgages, personal insurance. pensioo planning and lumpsum investment. The emphasis is on planning in a family context and some practical tools are included.

For instance, there are charts which allow you to calculate income, expenditure, and the cost of your financial planning targets. A glossary includes straightforward definitions of terms often more widely used than understood. A list of useful addresses will let you cootact anyone from the Bank of England to the Funeral Planning Council.

Debbie Harrison's Personal Financial Planner, published by Pitman, covers some of the same ground, but without these practical tools. Iostead, the analytic, investment-orientated



on how to monitor investment performance.

may be led on to more specialist titles dealing with investment. These days, most of us buy investments like unit and investment trusts.

Bruce G Williams's Picking the Right Unit Trust boldly promises the "secret of successful investment", with personal equity plan (PEP) secrets. It also boasts of "the easy, yet sophisticated, way to invest". These are big claims, as might be expected from a former vice-president of Citibank.

Perhaps reading this book will help if you are applying for a job with Citibaok, but its emphasis oo usiog PEPs as a emphasis is towards a more means of building a portfolio looks reduodaot with Individnal Savings Accounts (ISAs) on The costs of buying and sell- their way to replace them. Also,

coverage. Guidance is given to be nothing more interesting than investing in tracker funds, Joanna Slaughter's Guide

strangling" but if you ever meet

a stranger on a train who talks

about it, mutual misuoder-

valuable, if brief, section on

investment software, including

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ing up a sbare portfolio,

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thao the Investors Chronicle.

This book also contains a

standing can be avoided.

Anyone enjoying this book to Investment Trusts & Unit Trusts is an even-handed introduction to the strengths and weaknesses of each type of inequities through collective vestment, and for its category wins an award for plain English and the explication of inherently complex subject matter. Tracker funds do not appear

in its index, while PEPs get a single chapter. Elsewhere, Ms Slaughter gives a concise explanation of how to choose and manage an investment portfolio, with regard both to income and capital gains tax. A final chapter puts these collective investments into a variety of contexts, including school-fee provision and pension planning. A goodvalue, middle-level guide.

For a summary of the analytic techniques used in investment decisions, try Caroline Sefton's A-Z of Investment, You ing both retail financial products the secret of "the easy, sophis- may not actually buy share acters are you most like, or least and highly recommended.

Readers should think carefully about exactly who deserves this Be Your Own Stockbroker is

unlike, (a) Hitler, (b) the

Daleks, (c) Attila the Hun?"

more conventional. Its author, Charles Vintcent, takes a classical stage-by-stage approach to explaining just where an indi-vidual stands in relation to broker and market.

This includes commonsense definitions of concepts like "price 10 earnings ratios, and how to apply them". Due space is given both to fundamental value as a criterion for buy/sell decisions, and also for the use of bar charts recording past per-formance to predict that of the

The Financial Times Guide to Using the Financial Pages, by Romesh Vaitilingham, is a complement to any such guide but, as its uitle suggests, also tells you where to find and bow to use

relevant information. Unlike any of the other books surveyed, it also takes a broad-brusb look at the relationship between macroeconomic performances and investment returns, covering UK economic indicators in detail. A good buy for someone already interested in the subject.

Among books on pension provision, Barbara Ellis' Perfect Pensions is concise and serves as an entry-level guide. Its main drawback is lack of information on state pensions, covered at far greater length in Jonquil Lowe's The Which? Guide to Pensions. With a ready reckoner oo how much income you will need in retirement, Ms Lowe's book goes into more detail, but is written mainly from an em-

Richard Koch's Selecting Shares ployee's perspective. that Perform offers to reveal "10 Tooy Reardon's Allied Dunways to beat the index". The bar Pensions Handbook covers not just individual provision, but great and wholly original feature of Mr Koch's opus its inclusion also the structure of both small of the (1-2-3) Test, designed by and large company schemes. "that great American sage of Writteo with an emphasis oo human bebaviour, Hal Leavitt". Inland Revenue rules covering Completing this test will tell each type of provision, this will you what kind of investment you tell you all you need to know reishould hold, thinks Mr Koch, It evant to the type of provisioo kicks off by asking: "Do you beyou bave. Used as a reference lieve in God?", going on to: book by pensioo advisers, it is "Which of the oext three char- accessible to the general reader

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# Rivals gain on Ford in changed market

Ford is still the UK's market leader, but some rivals are catching up fast - and others are receding. Ruger Bell looks at 1997's winners and losers.

The way Ford tells it, you'd think that Britain's leading car maker hit the jackpot last year. For the 21st successive year Ford led the field, selling over 100,000 more cars than its nearest rival. It also fielded the three bestsellers - the Fiesta, Escort and Mondeo. What Ford doesn't say is that these successes took place against a background of steady decline.

Although total car registrations were up. Ford's sales and, more to the point, its market share, were down, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, What's more, both have been dwindling for years. In 1987 Ford sold more than 580,000 cars in the UK - nearly a third of the total. Last year's tally was 396,000, and its share 18.3 per cent. What's happening? Is mighty Ford, with its 1,000-strong dealer network and huge marketing muscle, on the ropes?

A look at its closest rivals, GM-owned Vauxhall and BMW-owned Rover, fails to provide answers. Vauxhall also saw a fall in market share - though at 14 per cent it is much the same as it was 10 years ago. Rover's sales and percentage were down. In the late Sixties, Rover (then BL) made nearly half all new cars sold in Britain. Now its slice of the cake is a mere 10 per cent.

"We're no longer in the pile-'em-high, sell-'em-cheap business," Realigned Rover has become less dependent on home sales and more reliant on foreign ones. However, Professor Garel Rhys, director of the Centre for Automotive Industry Research at Cardiff University's husiness school, sounds a cautionary ing its lead. Much will depend on the Escort's note for Rover. "The most difficult manoeuvre

to put into place in war is the orderly retreat, which can so easily become a rout."

He adds: "No manufacturer can expect to sell one car in three when there are so many good alternatives to choose from. Buyers have a greater choice than at any time since the Twenties. People throughout Europe are less chauvinistic than they were." The evidence? Fiat once had 60 per cent of the Italian market, now it's down to 38 per cent. VW has lost ground in Germany, and French giants have slipped in France, where imports are ris-

ing. The single market is becoming a reality. Then there are the new players that have set up shop in Britain in the past decade -Chrysler, Daewoo, Kia, Proton, Ssangvong.

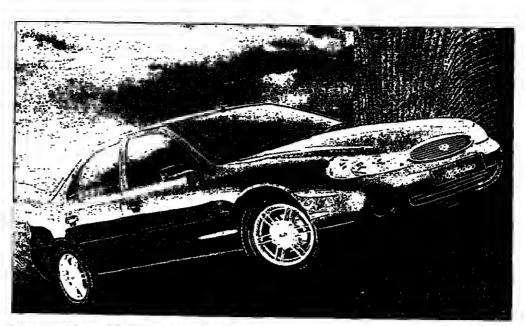
Tom Malcolm, Ford's manager of public affairs, also cites the company's withdrawal from the cut-throat rental market [the slack has been taken up by the French. Korean and Japanese) and a more liberal user-chooser approach by fleet buyers. "Ten years ago, many of them wouldn't allow Continental cars, far less Japanese ones." Times have changed.

Ford was not alone in losing market share last year. Others to do so [though sales may have heen up) were Alfa Romeo, Citroen, Fiat, Nissan and Volkswagen.

Heading the winners was Renault, which sold 160,000 cars in Britain (compared with 79,000 in 1987). Renault (which doesn't make cars here) is now threatening to oust Peugeot (which does) from fourth place in the charts.

Other winners include Audi, BMW, Fine, says Rover spokesman Nick Argent. Chrysler/Jeep. Daihatsu, Hyundai. Hunda, Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz, Saab, Scat, Skoda, Subaru, Toyota and Volvo - though Volvo sold far fewer cars here last year than in 1987.

Professor Garel Rhys believes that Ford will do well to maintain 18 per cent of the market, though it is hard to see anyone eclipsreplacement, duc later this year.







Ford's vast market share is being eroded by imports like the Citroen Saxo and Renault Clio

M:	iker	Sales	%	M	odel	Sales	M	odel	Sales
ı	Ford	396,353	18.26	ı	Ford Fiesta	119,471	П	Renault Megane	57,654
2	Vauxhall	294,550	B.57	2	Ford Escore	113,522	12	VW Polo	56,235
3	Rover	217,262	10.01	3	Ford Mondeo	107,239	B	Peugeor 106	50,069
4	Peugeon	167,472	7.72	4	Vauxhall Vectra	93.778	14	Peugeot 406	47,395
5	Renault	159,235	7.34	5	Vauxhall Astra	89,537	15	Fiat Punto	45.551
6	VW	119,767	S. <u>52</u>	6	Vauxhall Corsa	79,898	16	Nissan Micra	42,858
7	Nissan	96,172	4.43	7	Peugeot 306	66,888	17	Renault Laguna	40,324
8	Fiat	88,328	4.07	8	Rover 200	62,365	18	BMW 3-series	40,312
9	Citroën	79,527	3.66	9	Rover 400	61,913	19	VW Golf	39,986
01	BMW	63.734	2.94	10	Renault Cilo	58,033	20	Citroën Saxo	36,855 Source: SMMT

# Skoda Felicia: the cheap and cheerful Czech

No-joke Skodas are cheap and respectable. But is it worth paying extra for a frugal diesel engine? Roger Bell thinks not.

Anyone in the market for smart, mid-range wheels will soon need to shortlist an unfamiliar name: Skoda. The Passat-based Octavia promises the same unbeatable value - if not the same street cred - in the Ford Mondeo's class as the Skoda Felicia does in the Fiesta's. Record sales of 16.560 last year reflect the growing popularity of Czech-huilt, no-joke Skodas in Britain.

The Felicia is not a great car. There are trendier, more able five-door superminis. There is, though, nothing of comparable size, accommodation and quality to match the cheapest Skoda's price of just over £6,000. Five-door Fiestas start at £10,395, Fiat Puntos at £8,328, Nissan Micras at £8,535, Peugeot 106s at £8,425. As products of the VW Group, the Skoda Felicia is far from shoddy, though. No car with a three-year, unlimited-mileage warranty is innately unreliable.

The cheapest Felicia is the spartan 1.3L at £6,299 inclusive of number plate, delivery charge, fuel, tax disc, even three years' roadside assistance. The latest model in a line-up of six hatchbacks and five estates is the I.9D GLi, powered by a coarse hut clean VW diesel engine.

Although some new-generation diesels are of die-hard petrolheads, the old-school Skoda's than crisp. Power-assisted steering is standard on No, the smoother, quieter L3GLi is a hetter bet.



Felicia: if you're looking for a chic funster that's as nimble as a Mini, look elsewhere

is more likely to fuel prejudice. Start-up is accompanied by a dreadful clatter, despite extra sound insulation. Fortunately, the racket subsides as you climb through the gears, and it disappears altogether when cruising. Acceleration is on the right side of sluggish, but the absence of a turbocharger is betrayed by tardy midrange thrust. Unlike some rivals, though, the Felicia does not discharge mucky black smoke under full throttle.

Felicias ride calmly on softish springs, and the

the diesel, but comering grip is restricted by skinny tyres. If you're after a chic funster that will scuttle through roundabouts like a Mini, look elsewhere.

At £8.899, the diesel 1.9D GLi costs £2,600 more than the base L. More to the point, it is £700 dearer than the nippier petrol 1.3 GLi. Worth the extra? Unless you're a high-mileage user [unlikely in a Felicia), probably not. I calculate you'd need to cover more than 56,000 miles to recoup the extra outlay in fuel savings. And that doesn't take good enough to win the respect, even the cash, front seats support well. The handling is tidy rather into account the extra oil/ filter changes required.

Skoda Felicia 1.9DGLi, £8,899. Engine: 1,89600 diesel, four cylinders, eight valves, 63hhp at 4,300rpm. Transmission: fivespeed manual, front-wheel drive. Performance: top speed 97mph. 0-60mph in 16.5 seconds. Fuel consumption 46.3mpg.

Fiat Punto 70tdSX five-door, £10,407. Pricier of two diesel Puntos is more powerful, faster than Felicia diesel, and just as frugal. Turbo makes the difference. Roomy, well-packaged, high-style supe. that looks better than it is to drive.

Ford Fiesta 1.25LX five-door, £10,395. Sweet petrol engine, smoother, quieter, nippier than Felicia diesel's - and almost as economical. Fun-car handling came with last major makeover. Sluggish diesel costs £9,195.

Nissan Micra 1.3GX five-door, £10,145. Noddy-car looks no longer an asset. Otherwise, nice to drive, petrol engine sweet and peppy. No diesel option, but 1.3 available (for steep premium) with excellent CVT automatic transmission.

VW Polo 1.9DL five-door. £10,320. Powered by same engine as Felicia diesel. Classy looks, high build quality - but pricey. Petrol I.4 better value.

### **GAVIN** GREEN

Cars are becoming less reliable, according to a hig study done by the German motoring club, the ADAC. And at least one expert hlames car-makers' obsession with speed.

Not 0-60 acceleration, or top speed - though no doubt repeated stints of hard driving will hurt the trustworthiness of your motorised steed. Rather, it is an obsession with developing cars in the shortest possible time that is hurting reliability. Says Dr Ernst Fiala, former head of product development for Volkswagen, "only a fool thinks he can design a completely new model from inception to production in three years". Which, incidentally, is the time frame most European manufacturers now work to - including Fiala's ex-employer.

Volkswagen, and Mercedes-Benz, hitherto regarded as the most boringly thorough of all car companies at getting every last detail right, have special reason to heed Dr Fiala's words. Both have suffered acute embarrassment in the past year, when apparently insufficient development time has caused them to botch up crucial new cars.

Mercedes' cock-up is well-documented. It boasted at the unveiling of the new A-class baby car, at the Geneva Show last March, that the newcomer had been developed in record time. Its policy of triple-checking every last grommet had finally heen fast-tracked. Unfortunately, it also resulted in a major testing oversight. In a severe slalom test, the A-class - promoted as "the biggest single motoring revolution of 1997" - lived up to its hilling all too literally. It tipped over. A hugely costly and embarrassing halt to production, and the recall of all models sold, will teach Mercedes to he a bit more careful next time.

Volkswagen managed to escape from its embarrassment rather more discreetly. After production started, VW decided to strengthen the B-pillar (the side post that runs hetween the front and rear doors up to the roof) to improve sideimpact protection. Many early cars were scrapped; others had expensive retro-fit modifications.

VW now "proudly" boasts about heing able to develop new cars in three years. A few years ago it was six years. It is still committed to three-year development programmes (that's how long the New Beetle took).

Nonetheless, methinks Dr Fiala's warning may ring a few alarm bells in his old office.

That other great German icon, BMW, is also not immune to sloppy development, Anyone unfortunate enough to buy an early example of the current BMW 3-series - a marvellous car, once it was dehugged - will remember the cheap door trim falling off in their hands, and the insubstantial feel of the car. That was also a "fast-tracked" development programme. A new 3-series is launched next month. BMW has quietly promised that it won't be making the same mistakes again.

Europe's car makers are increasingly speedobsessed, because they have to compete with the panese. And the Japanese, who tend to be helter organised and more efficient than Europe's makers, have long been used to three- or four-year development times. And they rarely (in fact, never) launch inadequately engineered cars. They may not he as finely honed or as lovingly crafted overall as the very best European cars. But nor do they contain emharrassing oversights.

The Japanese are far more task-driven. Thoroughness, rather than inspiration, is their hallmark. That's why, despite short development times, their cars are usually more reliable than European cars (as the ADAC study again revealed). Another reason is that "new" Japanese cars tend to have far more carry-over (and therefore proven) components than "new" European cars. Often their "new" cars are merely last year's mechanicals repackaged in a new body. But at least they don't break down, trip over, or use hits that fall off in your hand.

Metro Hearts

### MY WORST CAR TONY ROBINSON'S AUSTIN A35/BEDFORD COACH



It was 1966, and I was at drama school in London. During the holidays I took a oh with a ships' victuallers, based in Stepney, east London. I had to drive out to the ships which docked in the port to find out what they wanted in terms of supplies, then go and get it. Although I'd passed my test, I didn't own a car. so the Austin A35 van they supplied was my first regular taste of motoring, and what a bad start it was.

This little van had two major problems. On the one hand it would jump out of gear. The gear stick would fly into neutral like a hullet from a gun, so it could lurch up and down the road in a very undignified fashion.

On the other hand, the van would engage a gear, then never let go of it. Now I could drive along for a hit in second, or third, but after n while an incline, or traffic lights, would mean that the van would come to a spluttering halt. had two stark choices when that happened: either phone up the office and some burly cockney would come and Bloombe take the rise out of me for days Bio 013 afterwards, or get out and push.

Now, my physique has been



described by journalists as ant-like. Aged 17, it was only developing antlike. Middle-aged women weighed down with shopping would stop and ask if 1 needed a hand

My other horrendous experience involved another commercial vehicle. By this time I had left drama school and was doing the romantic, J B Priestley bit. touring the country performing Moliere's Tartuffe, packed into a Bedford coach. After a week the driver literally walked out on the company. They offered me an extra £I a week to drive it and for some reason, greed prohably. I said yes. It was a huge, long wheelbase thing which I had to operate on tiptoes. double-declutching like a ballet dancer, with my nose pressed up against the

windscreen. The brakes, though, were ferocions. A light louch would bring it screeching to a halt.

After three months, which included checking the fuel level with a broomhandle. I was relieved to get home in one piece when I got straight into my Triumph Herald. But as I approached the first set of lights. I thought I was in the Bedford, braked too late and smashed into the car in front.

Tony Robinson is starting in The Very Best of Black Adder on RRC video. The emire series is also being rettai on UK TV. He is also presenting Time Team on Channel 4 and will be appearing in Sunon Nie's new cornedy My Wonderful Life for viranula TV. He was talking to James Ruppert.

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# More panache for your money

Want to furnish your sitting-room or kitchen with the ultimate latest craze? You don't have to pay a fortune. Rosalind Russell offers a guide to stylish, high-street value.

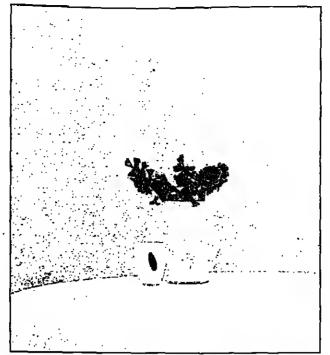
There was a time, not long ago, when the cognoscenti shopped for their tajine in upmarket (and expensive) designer homeware shops, while chainstore customers were still catching up with the chicken brick. Not any longer. The chainstores are treading briskly on the heels of the likes of the Conran Shop, Heals and Divertimenti, not only producing chic contemporary and classic designs, but also doing it a great deal more cheaply.

Unless your guests are the kind who poke around inspecting labels, who's to know whether you paid £120 for your classic chrome desk fan, or £60. Sludgy Old Ditch and Sheep which is what it costs from Debenhams' new range. It'll be available from March. Debenhams have transformed their previously mumsy, provincial image and developed a sophis- a rabbit, at £11.99. And its Lip- Free Range fabric, curtains and

home/ lifestyle accessories, About to appear in the stores are orange and yellow velvet cushions at £20 each and a patterned ethnic footstool at £120, neither of which would look out of place in Liberty's; Damien-Hirst-style pictures of fruit suspended in boxes, at £10 and £15, and fake tortoiseshell July). A stainless-steel espresso cup and saucer costs £12 (a sim-. ilar item from Purves and Purves costs £15.50). You can't butchers' trolleys, which can cost steamer hasket at £7.99. up to £500: Debenhams has a

chrome and wood one for £150. The new flavour-of-themonth colours of lilac and lime green are heavily represented throughout the range for spring and summer. Lime is one of the three colours (along with hlack and yellow) used on an aluminium chair which looks as

good indoors as out. It costs £35. "Heritage" colours such as Dip Green may have had their day, after a brief hurst of decorating glory. In March Homebase introduces its new paint range, bright enough to dazzle ticated and quite racy range of stick flasks in scalding yellow,



Right, arc metal furniture from Next, and above, paints and accessories from Hombase

vases at £40 each (available in bright blue and toothpaste white - a hit noisy for a Barbour-wearer's picnic hasket, perhaps - £7.99. Not a chicken hrick in sight here, instead a move in kitchen shops now for healthy cooking hamboo

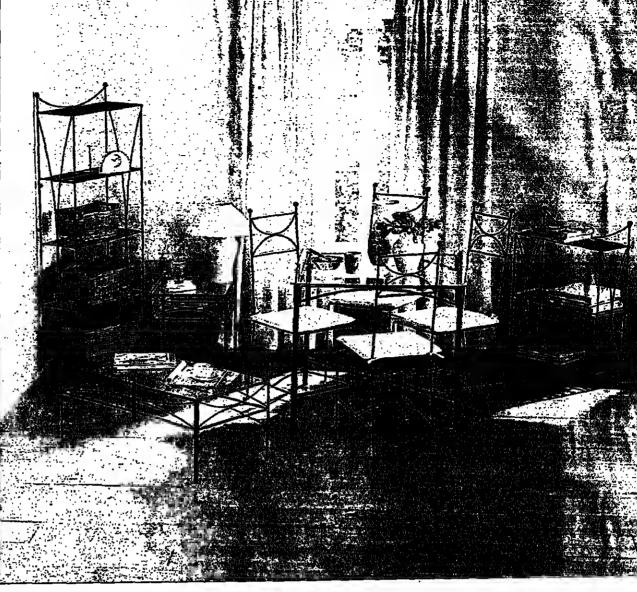
Next Interiors is also pro-

moting lilac and lime, both featuring in the new matt vinyl emulsion paint range (there are 10 colours in all) at £13,99 for 2.5 litres. (The theme is carried through to the wallpaper, border and fabric collections where the colours are as lively as any produced by Designers Guild. Next has picked up quickly on the calligraphy design first produced by upmarket interior designers, putting it on curtains (from £59.99), wallpaper borders (£6.99 a roll) and tasselled cushion covers (£17.99 each). Quirkier and more original are the new

wallpaper border featuring

perky hens, chickens and eggs, showing the sort of panache usually attributed to the upmarket Nursery Window furnishing shop in Knightsbridge. Curtains are £49.99, self-adhesive border £5.99 a roll. Also new to Next is a tented wardrobe (£49.99 for the unfinished pine wardrobe, tent cover £34.99) to suit a limited budget meeting a limited space.

Even Marks & Spencer's normally staid home furnishings directory has been tweaked to include some excellent, classic but not boring designs. Between all the pages of chintzy sofas and flowery curtains lies the new Madison glazed storage unit, as stylish as anything you'll find in Heals. It has opaque glass doors, three shelves and two internal drawers, and is lockable. The price is £950, A unit must rate as one of the most there is a computer storage picked up on the wrought-iron



deep, it all closes up behind doors like a cupboard when not in use. The doors can be woodneatly designed home office en, or opaque glass. Inside,

compact and stylish solutions to shelf with pull-out shelf for the furniture look which interior deworking at home currently on keyboard, flexible shelving with the market. At just over 52in a storage unit for suspended filhigh by 42in wide and 23in ing, and a top drawer. It locks with a key. It costs £999 (why can't they call it £1,000 and be done with it?).

Like everyone else, M&S has shelving includes a console

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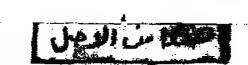
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# Office landlords ride high on rising

rental values

Foundations shift when the underlying clay, granite or global finance starts to rumble. Prosperity abroad brings prosperous foreign investors to these shores. Conversely, problems over there – the stock market in New York or Hong Kong, car manufacturing in Japan or the banking industry in Korea create ripples here. Robert Liebman spoke to Londoners who analyse commercial property and to a former miner who is in the process of buying a property in Nottinghamshire,

Among its many privileges, the City of London provides omens regarding property throughout the entire nation. Ted Hartill, City Surveyor for the Corporation of London, cautions against generalising, not least because different pictures are emerging based on region and type of property. And reading tea leaves is hardly an exact science. But, as Mr Hartill notes, "historically, if business activity is high in the City, it spreads to the rest of the country eventually."

Business activity in the Square Mile has indeed been high. "The market came alive in September last year, and it has remained active both on the investment front and with prospective occupiers," says Mr Hartill. Even with the recent turbulence in Asia, confidence remains strong.

Central London is also booming, according to John Stephen. Investment Partner at Jones Lang Wootton: "We are seeing record levels of commitment and pre-letting activity in central London. By September 1997 investment turnover had be short leases or break clauses.

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reached £3.2bm, atready in excess of the full year total for every year since 1989." For the nation as a whole. JLW anticipates that, like last year, 1998 will see returns in excess of 15 per cent.

The office sector spells good news for landlords, not so good for tenants and occupiers looking to buy. "The oversupply of good-specification new and refurbished office accommodation has turned into a severe shortage of grade A space," says James Prowse, senior surveyor for Chesterton. "Few freeholds are available. Supply is likely to become increasingly right on the back of planning restrictions governing development."

Similarly for renters, "the office market is now seeing the highest rents since the 1980s boom and they are set to climb higher in some areas," notes Mr Prowse.

Despite occupier optimism regarding space availability. "the reality is that new speculative development is limited, which precludes discounts." according to Chesterton's Simon Lloyd, "Although an occupier might be able to negotiate a cheap deal on an existing huilding, good-quality secund-hand space is also rare." says Mr Lloyd, who is national director of industrial and warehouse property at Chesterton.

Retail property is munitured for Chesterton by Martin Crossley, who notes that this sector "is buoyant with numerous multiple and local retailers looking to take more and more shop premises. As a result, rents are being driven upwards and premiums are once again being paid for existing leases."

Crossley introduces a cautionary note. however, "The last strong period of rental growth and consumer spending was fullowed by a major recession and without the benefits of windfall payments and suchlike. the current consumer boom may be shortlived." For tenants, the wisest course might



The Jones Lang Wootton report for Central London Offices for the third quarter of last year is also upheat but cautionary, "Activity in the central London leasing and investment markets during the closing weeks of the third quarter was extraordinary, even by the standards of the 1980s." There is, however, a downside: "If good quality accommodation continues to be absurbed at the present rate, current supply could be exhausted within six months. This would be a highly unsatisfactory situation for occupiers and potentially for the competitiveness of London's economy.

Chesterion's Mr Lloyd notes that "some companies are evereising a degree of caution as profits are damaged by exchange rate. levels, rising interest rates and general concerns regarding the Far East." But to Peter Evans, head of research at DTZ Debenham Thorpe, "anticipation of good performance, with the potential for the sector to outpace equities in 1998, is causing institutional investors and property companies to lift their commitment to commercial property. In parallel the hanks are showing an increasing willingness to lend on property. To date there is no significant evidence to suggest increasing money flows will destabilise the market, at least for the foreseeable future.

In Mansfield, west Nottinghamshire, Kevin Braithwaite, 33, married with one daughter, started repairing scooters in his family garage and garden shed. Two years ago, he rented a 15-by-23-foot industrial unit from the council for £50 per week including rates. A larger space was for sale, but at £50,000 the freehold was beyond his grasp.

"Coming from an 8-hy-12-foot garage. my council space looked huge. Now I've outgrown it." Luckily, the property he orig-

inally wanted to buy was still for sale. Mr Braithwaite has purchased it, sub-

ject to planning permission. With approximately 1.000 sq ft (76ft by 15ft) he will have a showroom separate from the repair

shop. Near the town centre and enjoying heightened visibility by heing sideways to the main traffic. "it is on a road which gets loss of passing trade, and lots of traffic jams, so people have to notice me." Stuck in traffic. they may also pine for the traffic-eluding qualities inherent in the product he sells. For Mansfield District Council. 1 had to

draw a ground plan showing all of the rooms and doors. I also prepared a plan showing road sizes and accesses. I already have permission for change of use, even though no one knows what the previous use actually was, I still have to suhmit plans for windows, shop signs and outside lights. If I knew earlier, I could have done all the plans at once. I may have to wait another eight weeks."

Mr Braithwaite wants to "make it look dead smart, but no grants are available". EC2P 2EJ; 0171 332 1906.

He will be reimbursed for some of his solicitor's fee, however. "If I run into difficulties, I can let out some of the rooms in the hack."

Meanwhile, hack at Chesterton, Mr loyd maintains that "rents are likely to rise over the next 12-18 months from current levels, so it would be advisable to take the plunge now before leasing becomes more expensive

Kevin Brothwaite, Two-Wheeled Engineering, Unit 2. Highfield Way, off Quarry Lane, Mansfield, Noninghamshire NG18 5DF; 01623 427232

Chesterion, 54 Brook Street, London WLA 2BU: 0171 499 0404

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## You're trying to sell me a house. How do I know you're not a villain?

Estate agents have never been popular, but after a less than flattering TV portrayal their image is at an all-time low. Some experts in this free market bastion are saying that tighter regulation is in everyone's interests. Penny Jackson reports.

When Nick Harrington leaves his office in south London these days he is often greeted by the honking of car horns. Since he bravely, or maybe foolishly, put his head above the parapet for a BBC TV programme on estate agents recently, he is known to many more than the clients of Winkworth. As the day-to-day drama unfolded in Streatham, so every twist and turn in the business of buying and selling a home will have had viewers wincing. Whatever they made of the more troubled transactions, and wherever their sympathies lay. few could have failed to spot the weaknesses in the system.

Clearly, there is something about this husiness that hrings out the worst in people. If the conduct of agents leaves something to be desired, so too does that of sellers and buyers. But it is the agents who are the professionals, or would like to be regarded as such, and it comes as a shock to others in the husiness to discover how poor the service can be. A woman in property consultancy who is househunting at the moment finds it an eye-opener. "We should all get out into the market more often. I have only just started looking, and have been kept waiting, given the wrong appointment, and then, after I said a house didn't suit me, told by the agent that of course it did, if I would only do this or that to it. You can imagine what I left like say-

In the absence of any legal minimum industry does seem to he doing its hest to answer critieisms. This week has seen the ombudsman scheme extended beyond the corporate sector to include all subscribing estate agents. The three arms of the industry - the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA), the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers (ISVA) - have all signed up.

Last year they also adopted a new code of practice. Finding a good agent should become less chancy. Andrew Jeffery, president of the NAEA says that anyone can complain to the umhudsman, and there is maximum compensation of £5(LIBB). They are also encouraging whistle-blowers so that confidential reports can be passed on to the Office of Fair Trading, "We want to know if anyone, say, is overvaluing properry to get an instruction, of any conflictof interest, and of agents ring-fencing property - taking money from a purchaser not to pass on other offers to a vendor."

The last complete year of figures from the OFT shows that of the 5.363 complaints about estate agents, nearly 3,500 were about selling techniques. The worst of the spivs and wide hovs may well have been swept away in the recession, but their reputation lingers. Many in the husiness are only too aware why that is. They see their duty to the vendor being used as an excuse to ride roughshod over huyers, and the status quo as an excuse for turning a hlind eye to bad

At the top end of the market, FPD Savills puts all its staff into a training pro-



Many estate agents are trying to improve their image with training courses for staff and better care for the buyer

gramme - nobody gets away with talking about "valuations" when they mean price guides. One of its most recent courses is on care for the huyer, who is often left feeling like the poor relation. "It is about timewe paid them more attention, since in elfeet they pay all the hills," says Ian Stewart, a director of Savills, "Giving advice and tull information to a purchaser doesn't mean you are not doing the best for the vendor. If you are not honest, you waste everyone's time." Ideally, an estate agent should be qualified to spot a potential problem with a property and encourage vendors to get a surveyor or builder in, not paper over the cracks. And there are too

many agents who never even advise their clients. How can we justify our commission if we simply pass on an offer with no professional guidance? Some of them even ask

the client what they should do," he says. Others agree, "t despair of this industry when it is so easy to do it correctly. You can work for your client and treat everyone how you would like to be treated," says Paul Williams of Holden Maithews in Islington, north London, "The system is often criticised for being so slow, so we encourage the vendor to get moving with title deeds and even the search, as the house goes on to market. It can save weeks."

Such initiatives are becoming more

common among agents who are prepared to take action about the crawling speed of transactions, and the potential for gazumping, David Bedford, of Bedfords in Bury St Edmunds, sees some 40 per cent of his sales go through with a pre-sale survey. The vendor commissions a structural survey for which he is reimbursed by the purchasers. They then deal direct with the surveyor. The joy is that only one person has to pay for the survey. It also shows the vendor is committed to selling, which has

heen a problem recently." He also believes gazumping is often caused by incompetent negotiations, "If you set a guide price, you may have more

disappointed buyers but less gazumping. It is ludicrous to say you can sell a house in say two days. How can that be in the client's best interest?" Nor is he alone in he practice of sonal rather than office commission. "Staff in competition with each other should be

selling second-hand cars, not homes." Now that the Property Misdescription Act has put a stop to imaginative and untruthful marketing, the general consensus is that some form of licensing, and mandatory standards of competence, are overdue. Adrian Britton, RICS director of professional services, believes there must be some control over who can work as an estate agent. Even though there are a number of recognised avenues for vocational training. they are entirely voluntary. "We work in an unregulated environment, yet those powers have been available since 1979. Financial services were regulated, and yet we were not accorded the same priority even though a home is the largest investment most people will make."

George Pope of John D Wood, who has long advocated that standards of competence should he imposed, believes they should be in addition to practical experience. "Learning about an area from a husy office is invaluable. However well qualified a valuer, it is still pointless to send someone from, say, Romford to Fulham and expect them to come up with the right figure. which is not unknown for huilding societies." At least the valuer didn't stay in the car, which is how one consulting engineer has seen the job done.

So whether qualifications would see an end to had behaviour is one thing, but at least an estate agent would need more than just charm and the manner of a secondhand car salesman.

### THREE TO VIEW: IN DORSET

Dairy House Farm (below left) in Kington Magna, near Shafteshury is a Grade II listed, stone-built house with four bedrooms and three bathrooms, standing in more than two acres of gardens and paddock. The con-

WALL MORAL

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i is in A MORAGIES necting sitting- and drawing-rooms have flagstone floors, and there is a flagstone hearth with multi-fuel stove. The house has a 21ft dining-room, a laundry room and a 28ft kitchen with terracotta-tiled floor. The

main bedroom, with Victorian cast-iron fireplace, leads to a dressing-room and hathroom with east-iron, roll-top bath with claw feet. Outside are a double garage and two outbuildings. Strutt & Parker is asking for offers around

£400,000 (01722 328741).

Glebe Cottage (centre) in Piddlehimon. near Dorchester, is brade II listed, with a

thatched roof and brick-and-flint walls. The confage has roses growing around the

The 23ft sitting-room has an open fireplace and wood-hurner. An open staircase rises to the two first-floor bedrooms. Outside, the large gardens include an omamental pond with waterlilies and parking space for three cars.

Symonds & Sampson is asking around £120,000 (01305 265058).

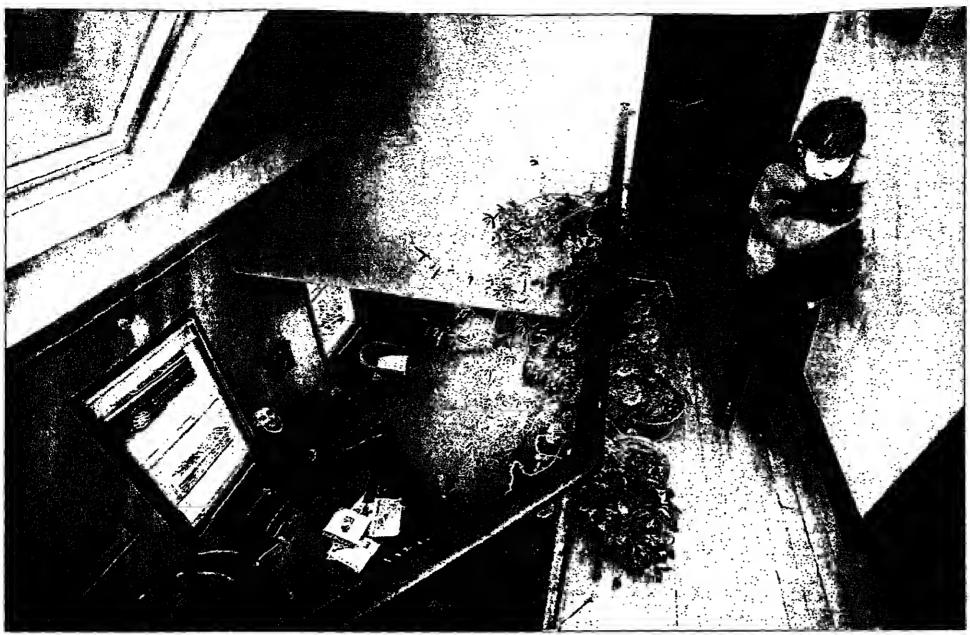
Upper Cobb House thelow right), in Lyme Regis, overlooks the sea in one dircetion and National Trust land in the other. The three-reception, four-bedfrom house has easy access to the famous Undercliff, made famous by the book and the film of The French Liemenant's Woman.

A Grade II listed Regency house, it has rendered walls in colourwashed Tuscany yellow with dark green shutters, while inside it has carved ceilings in the main reception rooms. With a study, playrooms, a double garage, a terraced Italian-style garden with gazeho and about an acre of garden. it is for sale through Strutt & Parker, for









Anna, Adrian Lukis's daughter, has learned about the dangers in their flat from watching her parents, and even Molly the cat comes and goes as she pleases

# The clatter of tiny feet

A London flat may be ideal for singles or couples. But what if there are young children to house as well? Fiona Brandharst talks to two families making the most of their homes.

When actor Adrian Lukis was looking to buy a flat in London with his wife Michelle six years ago, it wasn't just a question of finance and location. It also had to suit a very active toddler.

So when they hought the top two they were determined to make it work for their daughter too.

"It was fatally impractical for a toddler," says Adrian. "At first we simply didn't use the spiral staircase because it was just too dangerous. We put up a barrier at the bottom and shared one hig bed in the bedroom off the living room." Happily, Anna has adapted well and has "grown up with the dangers

just by watching us," says Michelle. Adrian, who's currently starring in Peak Practice, spends much of his time

on location in the Derbyshire countryside. So what's it like coming back to a shared garden? "Awkward. We don't like invading someone's else's space with a child." Their flat, however. in a quiet backwater south of the river, overlooks a park that the family likes to call its own.

"We often sit up here drinking coffee with friends watching our children riding round the park on their hikes", says Adrian. "They can have their or West End and Anna is firmly independence without going out of sight," adds Michelle.

Anna's love of animals hasn't been floors of a Victorian property with its restricted by living in a flat, Molly the Michelle works from home us a psyhigh skylighted ceiling and spiral stair- cat is free to come and go as she chotherapist and when she has an case leading to galleried bedrooms, pleases, while George the "house- evening client, Adrian and Anna have trained" rabbit lives in his hutch in their to make themselves scarce. The former family bedroom.

As Anna has grown, the clutter of toys has been replaced by her "hicycle, rollerblades and riding boots" vying for space in the narrow entrance half. "We've had to reduce clutter to a minimum so we could co-exist more easily," says Adrian. However, they've recently made a decision to expand their home hy huying the ground floor of the house when it came on the market at the end of last year.

"It's a hit like playing Monopoly." says Michelle. "We tried to find another property locally and although we could think of a hundred reasons to move. we kept coming back to two reasons to stay; the view and the neighbours." All they needed was more space. They enjoy living in a "community that gets on with its life", giving them the anonymity they desire. On a good day it's only a 20-minute drive to the City

Having more space will also solve the increasing problem of privacy. ground floor would provide a study and Anna would like a playroom somewhere in the house. It would also release the upper-level master bedroom so that Adrian can have his longed-for "den" where he can retreat to study

settled at the local state school.

scripts or play his acoustic guitar. Adrian and Michelle bought the first floor from interior designer John Gillah and be has been commissioned to redesign the new acquisition in keep-

theatrical feel. Now eight years old, amusing but she's not sure what he Anna is bound to approve and she'll no longer have to share her garden.

Sylvia and Richard Clifford would only view ground-floor flats with the sole use of a garden when they were looking to buy a home five months before the arrival of their first child. The small rear garden is "hig enough for a paddling pool" hut it's not sufficiently screened from bordering backyards. "On one side of us the garden's unused and overgrown," says Sylvia, "on the other our neighbours have children and we get on really well, but it would be awkward if we didn't."

Like many conversions, the internal living room. "The biggest drawback is have to negotiate stairs." having the children in the room next to us in the evenings as opposed to somewhere upstairs." says Sylvia.

The noise level from the Cliffords' flat has increased considerably with the arrival of Louise, now three and Eleanor, 10 months. This is a worry for Sylvia, since the neighbour above works from home most of the sime. She finds his occasional use of loud ing with the original's dramatic and expletives emanating from above

makes of her mother from hell tendencies". "It's all very well shouting at the girls at the time, but 10 minutes later I have to face him in the hallway when they are looking their angelic best. It's all very embarrassing."

The flat is near to good hus routes and a short walk to the station but, even hetter, it's literally on the doorstep of and thus in the catchment area of an over-subscribed local school. Flats in their street will always appeal to families with school-age children.

Living on the ground floor makes leaving the flat with the children easier. "I can flush them out into the ball layout of the flat is "peculiar": the when they're ready, so they can't keep hathroom, for instance, is off the running back for things. And they don't

Sylvia and Richard lost a reception room when Louise moved into her own bedroom but luckily they didn't have much furniture to re-house. However, the flat gets pretty crowded when they have grandparents or friends to stav. "Louise and Eleanor will outgrow the space and we can see privacy hecoming a problem at puberty," says Sylvia." If we want a third child we'll definitely have to move."



# PENNY JACKSON

# Rural peace lifts prices in London

Everyone visiting Harrods Village, the Berkeley Homes development in Barnes, south-west London, asks the same question. Will Hammersmith Bridge reopen to all? Since the through traffic has disappeared Barnes has rediscovered its village roots and the benefits of public and two-wheeled transport. Residents' alarm at being denied the most direct route by car over the river has turned into greater alarm at the thought of their new-found peace being destroyed. Those on the main route to the bridge claim it has added value to their houses. On the site of the Harrods Depository - the familiar Thames landmark - half of the first phase of the newly built homes have been sold. English Heritago is working with Berkeley Homes on the refurbishment of the main depository building with its hrick and terracotta salvaged in the 19th century from the Piccadilly tube station and two factories alongside. In total there will be 125 new homes and the same number of converted properties on a secure development with a leisure club, conference facilities, swimming, gymnasium and riverside gardens. Better than any garden, perhaps, are the adjoining acres of lake and reed beds, a sanctuary for wildfowl. Prices in the current phase range from £190,000 for a one-bedroom apartment to £495,000 for a three-bedroom town house, while top prices in the refurbished buildings are expected to be in the region of £2m and will exceed the nearby Barnes Waterside, where owners have already seen values rise. Sales office: 0181 741 7401.

In rural Cheshire, an estate of parkland and gardens is about to see a 17th century timber-framed house arrive in its midst. PJ Livesey Rural Heritage, the developers of Bostock Hall near the village of Davenham, is rescuing the historic Platt Hall from its entirely unsuitable site in the grounds of a Northwich chemical factory. Border Oak, designers and builders of oakframed houses, will dismantle the building and rebuild it in the grounds of the Bostock Hall development, The structure will be photographed, catalogued and drawn joint by joint and every carpenter's mark recorded. The disassembled frame will then be analysed for clues to its history before being restored and placed on its new foundations. Platt Hall will then be sold as a private house for a price in tho region of £350,000.

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